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EU threatens to extend ban on British beef



Gore: checks on babies
CJD 'risk' to babies of women victims

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN who develop the human form of "mad cow" disease may pass it on to their children, a leading British expert warned yesterday.

Dr Sheila Gore, of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit in Cambridge, said monitoring was vital, in the light of new evidence that mad cow disease can be passed from mother to calf.

Dr Gore, who is among those who have been pressing the Ministry of Agriculture to publish results from its experiments — because of the implications its results may have for human disease — yesterday welcomed the decision to do so. The original plan had been to keep the experiment going until 1997, with the scientists "blinded", unaware of which animals came from infected mothers and which did not. Pressure has forced the Ministry to abandon this experiment early.

"We need to know how many children there are born to women who later contract this variant of CJD [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease]," Dr Gore said. "We also need to know dates of birth, so that the children can be flagged with the Registrar-General, and kept track of."

The Health Department said that such monitoring was already being done, as part of the work of the CJD Surveillance Unit.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Mad cows can pass disease to their calves

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's efforts to restore faith in the beef industry suffered a new setback yesterday after it revealed evidence for the first time that "mad cow" disease can be passed from mother to calf.

The demolition of previous claims that the disease could only be passed through food threw its strategy for eradicating Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy into confusion.

Ministers immediately acknowledged that plans for the selective slaughter of 147,000 cows from previously infected herds would be rethought. Thousands more may have to be killed and the new findings are likely to delay any partial lifting of the export ban which, after the Florence summit, John Major predicted could happen within months.

Last night, in a surprise move signalling a potential new confrontation between London and Brussels, Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, told the Government that the European Commission would now have to review its approval of Britain's previously agreed plans for eradicating the disease.

Herr Fischler has written to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, asking for further details of the findings. The EU's Standing Veterinary Committee also said that if Britain's selective cull had to be extended, the progressive lifting of the European ban on exports of British beef would have to be delayed.

Earlier, a hastily arranged announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture suggested that the risk of so-called "maternal transmission" was about 10 per cent in BSE-infected cattle and as low as 1 per cent across the national herd. Throughout the day, government officials emphasised that there was no additional risk to human health.

But Mr Hogg conceded that the existing slaughter scheme might have to be widened to include a limited number of

the "last-borns" from infected cows. This was because government scientists had found during a study of 600 cattle born in 1989 — half of them confirmed BSE cases — that transmission of the disease was more likely to occur in the latter stages of the incubation period. In virtually all the cases the mothers died within six months of giving birth.

However, the Government's advisers appeared to differ with Mr Hogg. Professor John Pattison, who chairs the BSE advisory committee, said that all calves of infected cattle might have to be slaughtered. "It is one option that has to be considered," he said. Mr Hogg insisted that it was "logical" to consider killing only the last-born calf of infected cows.

The new findings may help to clear up the mystery of why some 30,000 cattle, born after the suspect feed blamed for causing BSE was banned, went on to contract the disease.

There are no conclusions on precisely how BSE was passed from mothers to calves, whether genetically, through the womb, or at birth. The Government said that while the route of maternal transmission was still a mystery, BSE could not be passed through milk. Calves did not drink the milk produced by their mothers; that was saved for human consumption.



Hogg: "slaughter will have to be extended"

As the Opposition parties criticised the way officials and not ministers had dropped the new bombshell at a Whitehall briefing, critics of the Government's BSE policy went on the warpath again last night.

Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University who issued a warning long before the Government did that BSE could be transmitted to humans, said the findings implied that the disease was passed in the blood.

"If it's in the blood it means that all beef products are dangerous," he said. "This means there should be a total ban on beef products in this country and we should slaughter all infected herds. It is going to be devastating."

In Brussels Keith Meldrum, the Government's chief veterinary officer, told his EU colleagues of the result of the study and said Britain would now consider whether it was necessary to extend the planned selective slaughter of 147,000 cattle.

Around a million cattle aged 30 months and over are also being slaughtered and Brussels could even insist that the 30-month ceiling is lowered. Mr Meldrum faced a barrage of questions at an emergency meeting of the EU's standing veterinary committee.

Mr Hogg said: "We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the most effective acceleration in the decline of BSE."

Meanwhile, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, which advises the Government on BSE and its human equivalent, CJD, insisted no new action was needed to protect public health.

In a statement the committee said: "There is no case for changing its recommendations in relation to milk, meat, blood or any other product which is currently permitted."



Julie Pound and her husband, Richard, at their home in Montreal, Canada, where she is a well-known author

Olympic oaths of top official's wife

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

THE wife of a senior Olympic Games official was arrested, seemingly under the influence of alcohol, after she allegedly swore at a policeman and knelt her in the groin.

Julie Pound, 55, was charged with disorderly conduct, battery, causing an obstruction and ignoring the orders of Officer Leanne Browning. Mrs Pound's husband, Richard, is a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and is regarded as the most powerful man in the organisation after its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The Pounds, who are Canadian, were returning to their hotel early on Wednesday when the incident occurred. They crossed a road, despite being ordered by Officer Browning, who was directing traffic, to stay on the pavement. In her police report, Officer Browning said: "I told

Mrs Pound and her husband to 'stop please and step back on to the kerb'. Instead of complying they proceeded further into the lane of traffic. I asked them three more times to return to the kerb. Instead, both Mrs Pound and her husband began arguing with me and stated that 'this is the biggest waste of time'."

Officer Browning said that when the couple saw a break in the traffic, Mrs Pound swore at her and crossed. When she ordered them to return, Mrs Pound again swore at her and walked on.

"At that point, to prevent her from leaving the scene, I grabbed her arm and told her she was under arrest. She called me a bitch and knelt me in the groin."

Mrs Pound shouted for help, telling onlookers that she was being "brutalised". Officer Browning "had to fight" to get handcuffs on her.

The Pounds are not the first Olympic visitors to have had trouble with Atlanta traffic police, who have repeatedly tried to stop jaywalkers.

Mr Pound has been one of the IOC's most vocal critics of Atlanta's handling of the Games, and has criticised transport problems and computer malfunctions. He has also joined other officials in expressing disenchantment at the overly commercial ap-

proach adopted by the Atlanta organisers.

The couple live in Montreal where Mrs Pound is a respected fiction writer, writing under the name Julie Keith.

Mrs Pound is due to appear in court on August 26. It is thought that she will be fined and bound over.

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Power utility leads bonanza

A new wave of utility shareholder bonanzas is expected in an attempt to beat the windfall utilities tax planned by a Labour government.

Yorkshire Electricity set the pace when it announced that next year's dividend would soar by 34 per cent as a way of returning value to shareholders after a strong performance.

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Official solicitor rules human embryos have no rights to avert being destroyed

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Official Solicitor yesterday refused to intervene in the destruction of thousands of human embryos, saying that a child acquires legal rights only if it is born alive.

He spoke as 33 fertility clinics began to destroy more than 3,000 embryos that had been frozen in liquid nitrogen for five years. Peter Harris, whose duty as Official Solicitor is to protect the interests of children, declined a request from Life, the anti-abortion campaigners, to halt the destruction. Mr Harris used the principle of a "life in being" — most commonly applied by inheritance lawyers to divide legacies — to explain his inability to intervene. "My view is that I could not act for a non-legal person and an embryo is not a legal person," he said.

"A child has an independent legal persona when it is born. This doesn't mean to say that things which happen in utero don't give rise to cases of

action if the child is born alive. For instance, if a mother has been injured in a road traffic accident and a child has been born suffering from injuries suffered in the womb, a child has successfully sued the person who caused the accident for damages."

"If the mother had miscarried, there would have been no right of action in relation to the foetus. It would be dead. It wouldn't have an estate that would carry on."

There was a recent case where a mother was knifed by somebody and the foetus was injured. The child was born but died. The person who stabbed the mother was convicted of the murder of the child. There would be no criminal liability in terms of murder in relation to the foetus if the child had been born dead. A child born alive has independent legal rights, not least of which is the right to life."

The Prime Minister failed to

reply before the midnight deadline to the Life's request to extend it for six months.

At Bourn Hall fertility clinic in Cambridgeshire, Peter Brinsden, the director, laid most of the blame for the destruction of the embryos on the parents who had either failed to reply to registered letters or moved without telling the clinic. "If you had £10,000 in the bank, you wouldn't normally ignore it for five years," he said. "These are even more important than £10,000. If couples shrink their responsibilities like that we have no choice but to destroy them."

The centres had lost touch with their parents, and embryos can be kept for longer than five years only with parental permission.

The embryos, consisting of four cells or fewer, were being thawed and placed in water or salt solution at room temperature to perish before being incinerated. Some clinics ex-

pect to take two days to complete the task.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had warned Mr Brinsden that his clinic would be closed if he failed to comply with the rules.

One American woman, who had seen a report about the destruction on CNN television, telephoned Bourn Hall at 7pm on Wednesday, with just five hours to spare to save her embryos. She also paid the backlog of her bill for storing them.

One or two drops of alcohol were applied to each of 60 thawed embryos at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, to break down their cells.

"Of course, one is not happy about destroying them but the law is quite clear and it has to be done," Dr Brian Lieberman, consultant in charge of in-vitro fertilisation, said. "The day of reckoning has come."

Valerie Grove, page 13

Italians convict former SS officer

An Italian military court convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings at the Ardeatine Caves on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment.

Mother is road rage victim

Nicola Archer was attacked by a man with a screwdriver in a road-rage incident near Eastbourne. She escaped with a cut to her arm after winding up her car window.

Mrs Archer, 22, was with her three young children in a queue of stationary traffic when a car driven by a woman with a male passenger came round the corner behind her. The man got out and became very aggressive. Police are appealing for witnesses.

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Nurse drowns on first day of 50th birthday trip

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A NURSE drowned on the first day of a holiday in the South Pacific to celebrate her 50th birthday and her sister's 30th wedding anniversary, it emerged yesterday.

Margaret Lynch, from Meppershall, Bedfordshire, who was also a swimming instructor, was overpowered by a freak wave as the fringes of a massive tropical storm swept over the small island of Rarotonga, part of the Cook Islands.

Mrs Lynch, who had gone out in a rowing boat with her brother-in-law while her husband Eddie was recovering from jet-lag, was flung into the sea after the boat capsized. Local fishermen tried in vain to rescue her.

Mrs Lynch's sister Sheena and brother-in-law Peter Thomasson had decided to go snorkelling in the lagoon between the shore and the coral reefs that ring Rarotonga. They were unaware that the massive waves crashing over the reefs were not normal, but caused by a huge tropical storm that was also causing chaos in Hawaii, 4,000 miles to the north.

Mr Thomasson said: "It looked like paradise, absolutely wonderful. We were far enough from the storm that we could not see the bad weather, only the waves. There was an enormous sea out on the outer reef, which we didn't realise was totally unusual for the island. We had only been there for eight hours and this was the first time we had had a look at the lagoon. The three of us decided to row out to some islands about 200 yards away and do some snorkelling, leaving Eddie to have a lie-in."

"On the way, we stopped to change position so I could row



Margaret Lynch: waves were too strong for her



more comfortably, and when we sat down again we noticed that we had actually drifted quite a long way. It turned out that, unbeknown to us, there was a horrendous current in the lagoon, dragging us towards this huge great surf on the outer reef.

"I was trying to row like nobody's business, but I just couldn't beat the current. We were being dragged inexorably towards the waves, which looked as big as a house."

A local man spotted the Britons' distress and set out in a small rowing-boat, picking Mrs Thomasson up and returning her to shore. Before he

could get back to rescue the other two, their boat had been capsized.

Mr Thomasson said: "Margaret and I were being ducked underwater by every wave, but we managed to hang on to the boat and I attached a line from it to his boat. The chap was a very strong rower and very brave, but he seemed to be being dragged towards the waves. Then I realised that some fishermen in a boat with an outboard motor had gone out to the other side of the surf. "He had decided that the only way to save us was to go through the waves to them, but we got into even rougher seas and both boats were capsized and all three of us were being knocked about by horrendous waves. Margaret was a swimming instructor in her spare time and a strong swimmer, but the sea was so rough, it was too much even for her."

Mr Thomasson made it through the surf to the waiting fishermen, and the local rower managed to swim to shore.

Mr Thomasson said: "It was terrible having to tell Eddie what had happened. He was distraught. The dreadful thing is that the next day it was completely calm again and there were little boys out in boats there, having no difficulties at all."

The bereaved holidaymakers were visited by Rarotonga's Prime Minister, who paid his condolences. They flew back to England two days after the accident on July 20, but Mrs Lynch's body could not be brought back for some time. An inquest into her death was opened in Bedfordshire yesterday.

A fund has been set up in Mrs Lynch's memory to thank the Rarotongans for their help in trying to save her. It will be donated to the island's health service.



Lady Sarah Chatto leaving hospital with her husband and their son, who arrived on Sunday weighing 7lb 12oz

Royal Family's new member waits for proud parents to name names

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE child 14th in line to the throne emerged from the Portland Hospital in London yesterday, still officially without a name. The boy, born on Sunday, is Princess Margaret's first grandchild.

Asked how she was feeling, Lady Sarah Chatto, with her hair tied in a pony tail and wearing loose green trousers and a mustard smock top, said: "Great."

The child is blessed with having no title and no foreseeable public role in spite of being a great-grandson of King George VI, because his father is a commoner. The former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 32, younger child of the Queen's sister and the Earl of Snowdon, married Daniel Chatto, 39, in

1994. They live quietly away from public scrutiny in a flat in west London.

The Queen's only niece was said to be in good health after the birth. Lady Sarah's father and Mr Chatto's mother, Ros, were the first to visit mother and baby. Lady Sarah told the Royal Family of her pregnancy during a visit to Windsor Castle last Christmas. The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, who divorced in 1978, were said by Buckingham Palace to be delighted.

The baby will be in the same position as the children of the Princess Royal, Peter and Zara Phillips. Their father, Captain Mark Phillips, was also a commoner so they inherit neither title nor position, irrespective of the fact that

their mother is the Queen's daughter. They, too, have the good fortune to enjoy a relatively private life with no official duties.

Mr Chatto, a former actor, and Lady Sarah, who attended a south London art college, are both artists who travel regularly to the Continent to paint together. Lady Sarah's older brother, Viscount Linley, and his wife Serena Stanhope married in 1993 but do not yet have children.

Baby Chatto's claim to the throne comes in a queue preceded by the Prince of Wales, Prince William, Prince Harry, the Duke of York, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, Peter Phillips, Zara Phillips, Princess Margaret, Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto.

Book on 'killings' is fiction, RUC says

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary said yesterday that a book claiming that an SAS squad assassinated 30 terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s was fiction.

The RUC's judgment on *The Nemesis File*, by Paul Bruce, the pseudonym of a man claiming to have been a member of the death squad, was issued after the author's interrogation at a Belfast police station. He was arrested at his flat in England on Wednesday. The book, published by Blake Publishing last autumn, is to come out in paperback next month.

The RUC said it was satisfied the allegations in the book "are not true in fact or substance and this includes an assertion that the author was at some time a member of the Special Air Service Regiment". The RUC was satisfied that the author had not been concerned, either directly or indirectly, "in the commission of any serious criminal offence whilst serving in the Province". The RUC established that Mr Bruce had served as a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during 1972. The statement said the investigation into the matter was closed.

Yesterday, after Mr Bruce was released, John Blake, the book's publisher, said he remained convinced that the author was telling the truth.

Nationalists in Londonderry have removed the Unionist mayor's privileges after his participation in a loyalist protest last month. Richard Dallas, an Ulster Unionist, will hold office in name only.

The move was initiated by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which controls the city council, after the mayor joined a loyalist blockade in the city during July's stand-off in Drumcree over an Orange parade. It represents a blow to cross-community relations.

Greek tycoon's home raided by armed gang

BY ADAM FRESKO

A BRANDY tycoon has had money and jewellery worth thousands of pounds stolen from his home by an armed gang who handcuffed his mother-in-law to the banister as they searched the house.

Detectives are investigating possible links between the robbery at the home of Spiro Metaxas and other raids across the country in the past 20 months that have netted at least £1 million.

In March, the wife of Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City football manager, was handcuffed to banisters at her home in Birmingham as three men in balaclavas stole her £10,000 engagement ring. All the victims have been tied up or handcuffed and threatened. One brand of handcuffs is believed to have been used in all the raids with the keys left just out of reach.

In the latest attack, on Wednesday night, Stephanie Slater, the mother-in-law of Mr Metaxas, one of the brothers who sold Metaxas, Greece's leading spirits producer, to Grand Met in 1989 for £100 million, was alone watching television in the house at Godalming, Surrey, when the five raiders, wearing balaclavas, ran down the stairs and

shot a Rotweiler guard dog through the chest.

They had used a ladder to get in through a bedroom window. Mrs Slater was forced to open the family safe before being handcuffed. They then searched the rest of the house for valuables.

She freed herself and dialled 999. Police are checking security cameras at the house, which is set in three acres of secluded grounds and regularly patrolled by uniformed guards with dogs.

Last night detectives were trying to contact Mr Metaxas and his wife Kimberley, who are on holiday with their two sons. Mrs Metaxas is a well-known showjumper who competes in dressage events.

In other attacks, Eddie Healey, a millionaire property entrepreneur, was threatened and handcuffed at his house near Hull by a gang that escaped with cash and jewellery worth £250,000. Bill Bell, chairman of Port Vale Football Club, and his wife Jean were tied to a radiator in their home in Staffordshire. In Warwickshire, George Webster was at home with his wife when men burst in and threatened to kill them unless they opened the safe.

Boy hurt by army training explosive

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY aged 14 was badly burnt when a thunderflash left over from a military training exercise exploded in his face. Doctors may have to operate to save Simon Richardson's sight after he picked up the firecracker as he explored sand dunes on a military beach near Perranporth, Cornwall.

Simon's parents, Colin and Jill Richardson, from Durham, condemned the Defence Ministry for not providing adequate warning signs. The army training range borders on a holidaymakers' area and there are warning signs but no fence. Mr and Mrs Richardson said the peeling signs failed to provide sufficient warning.

Simon is understood to have taken the device back to the holiday camp and opened it, when it exploded. He was taken to the burns unit at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. He has a badly damaged right eye, damaged left eye, badly swollen lips and burns on 10 per cent of his body.

An MoD spokesman said that he was "extremely sorry" about what had happened but signs clearly indicated that people should keep out of the area.

It's a good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll engagement

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

LIAM GALLAGHER, rebellious singer with the pop group Oasis, confirmed his engagement to actress Patsy Kensit yesterday after a turbulent seven-month relationship that has followed the finest traditions of rock'n'roll love affairs. The couple exchanged rings from an antique shop in Haddon Garden, London, and will marry when Miss Kensit's divorce from Jim Kerr, singer with the group Simple Minds, is finalised.

Yesterday at Miss Kensit's home in St John's Wood, Gallagher, 23, who proposed a month ago, said he thought the engagement was "great". The news also pleased his mother, Peggy Gallagher, who said from her council home in Burnage, Manchester yesterday: "I'm abso-



Gallagher and Kensit: turbulent courtship

lutely thrilled for both of them. Patsy is such a nice girl. She was really good to me when I was ill. I've known for a few days because Liam phoned up to tell me."

The couple began dating publicly in January soon after Miss Kensit, 28, announced her separation from Kerr, who used to be married to Chrissy Hynde, lead singer with The Pretenders. Weeks

later they were seen kissing at a Dublin fashion show.

During a fiery relationship which has at times been more off than on the couple's every disagreement has been faithfully charted by the press. On one occasion Miss Kensit was photographed kicking Gallagher and his car after he had spent the night at the home of the supermodel Kate Moss.

Radio One DJ Chris Evans will be staying in Scotland for at least another week in spite of disassembling his jokes about "tartan tottie" and Scottish accents when he broadcast the *Breakfast Show* from Inverness on Monday. He is booked into a 15th-century Scottish castle 30 miles to the south of Inverness for a week, and is already contemplating new Scottish venues for the show.

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Reclusive twins test island's feudal ties

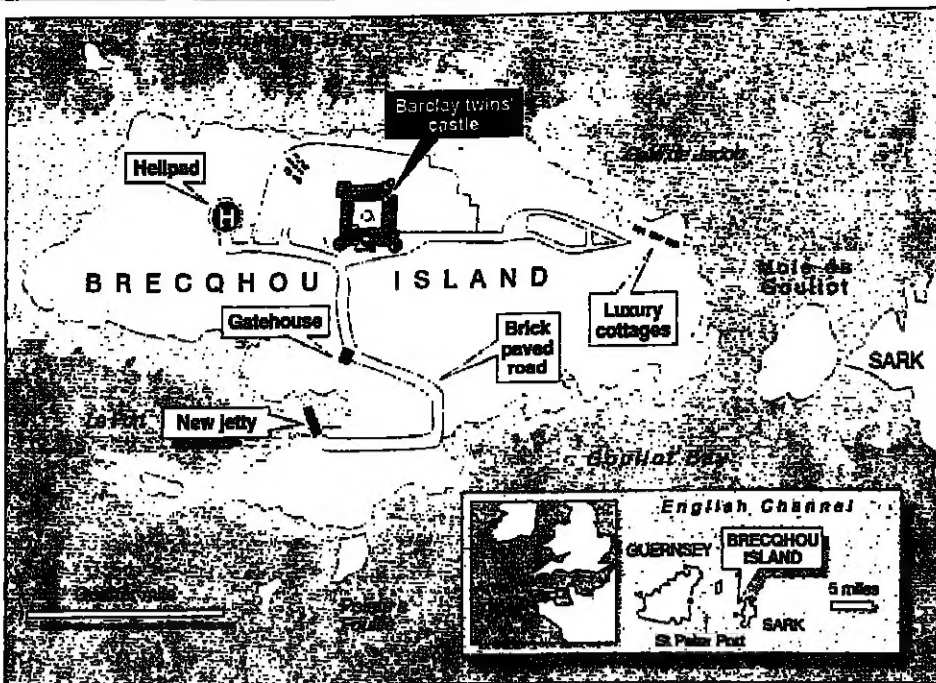
FROM PHILIP JEUNE
IN JERSEY

BRITAIN'S wealthiest twins moved to their new home on the tiny Channel Island of Brecqhou this week. They will soon find out if an Englishman's castle really is his home.

David and Frederick Barclay, whose personal fortune is estimated to be at least £650 million, will be spending August with their families in an as yet unfinished Gothic-style castle on the island, the lease to which they acquired for £2.3 million in 1993.

The brothers are passionate about their privacy. Yet their move has been accompanied by a string of legal actions brought on their behalf that have attracted the very publicity they are so keen to avoid.

Since buying the lease of Brecqhou, they have sued Guernsey's local paper, the BBC Director-General John Birt, an *Observer* journalist



and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of neighbouring Sark.

In their action against Mr Beaumont, the twins are questioning the constitutional relationship between Sark, one of the few remaining feudal states in the world, and Brecqhou. When they bought the lease, the Barclays had to pay a thirteenth of the price — the "treizieme" — to Mr Beaumont, which amounted to £179,000. In their action they are seeking the return of

these feudal dues; a declaration that Brecqhou is not part of the fief of Sark; the amendment of their title deeds to reflect the true legal position; and clarification of the laws of Brecqhou concerning inheritance rights and alienation.

The action against the *Guernsey Evening Press & Star* was over the paper's publication of drawings of the castle, which the brothers considered to be private documents. The paper filed a defence in 1995, since when

no further action has been taken.

The recent libel action against Mr Birt and the journalist John Sweeney was brought by the Barclays in St Malo, France. It stemmed from an interview with Mr Sweeney, broadcast on BBC Radio Guernsey but heard in France, in which he was alleged to have accused the brothers of corruption. They sought damages of £108,000 but the case was thrown out after the judge said it was "unacceptable".

Drivers face M-way junction closures across the country

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE sudden closure of one of the country's busiest motorway junctions for repairs expected to take a year could be repeated on other main routes because of the scale of cuts in the roads maintenance programme.

The Highways Agency has shut junction two of the M1 in north London for safety reasons with less than four hours' notice. Tests showed that it was unsafe and needed £2.5 million of strengthening work, the agency said.

The Five Ways Corner junction, which links the M1 with the A1, was closed at 9pm on Wednesday, causing long tailbacks. The agency said tests of the strength of the slip-road showed it was unsafe although there was only a minimal risk of it collapsing. Repair work will not begin until January and is unlikely to be completed before next summer.

Lawrie Haynes, the agency's chief executive, said that

Treasury cuts in his maintenance budget meant "funding will not be sufficient" to avoid a further deterioration of the roads network. Mr Haynes, who has been fighting a Whitehall battle to protect his budget in the present spending round, said in a letter to an MP that the agency "expects to be able to maintain safety" but that many vital repair projects will have to be put off until next year or 1998.

The agency's £1.6 billion maintenance budget was cut by 4 per cent last year and is expected to be reduced again by the Chancellor in his search for public spending cuts.

Hundreds of motorway bridge and road structures built in the 1950s and 1960s need repairing because of unforeseen levels of traffic and because they were built to low specifications.

Pressure on the agency's maintenance budget has been increased by a European Union decision to allow 40-

tonne trucks into Britain from 1999. Mr Haynes said that 1,756 trunk road bridges, including 34 motorway bridges, may need strengthening.

The next big motorway closure is due in February when work begins on testing the M4 Chiswick flyover in west London for "concrete cancer". Motoring organisations have said that the work could lead to ten years of disruption.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is failing in its main duty to encourage motorists to license their vehicles, the Commons Public Accounts Committee says in a report published today.

The agency, which collects £4 billion a year and has seen an 18 per cent increase in the level of evasion since 1989, makes little effort to "go after" tax evaders or to penalise persistent offenders. The report says that shoddy collecting is costing the taxpayer £163 million a year.



Charles Kray: arrested

Kray held after drug seizure

Charles Kray, the elder brother of the Kray twins, was questioned yesterday by detectives investigating a plot to supply cocaine worth £80 million. Kray, 70, was arrested with two other men after a three-month operation in east London. Cocaine worth £60,000 was seized. In a separate initiative against drug trafficking, police made 31 arrests yesterday in raids across south London.

Synod accused

A vote of no confidence in the General Synod of the Church of England has been passed by the Lower Heyford parochial church council in Oxfordshire, which claims its agenda has been "captured" by special interest groups.

Legion's image

The Royal British Legion is to update its image with a £250,000 campaign highlighting the plight of troops in modern wars and the needs of their families. Posters will focus on conflicts in Bosnia, Rwanda and the Gulf.

Generous Getty

J. Paul Getty has donated £50,000 to the National Galleries of Scotland's appeal to save Il Guercino's *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tarsus* from being exported. The appeal has until August 15 to raise £225,624.

School fire

The 19th-century main building of Bedstone College Shropshire, has been badly damaged by fire. The blaze in the listed Calendar building, which has 365 windows and 52 rooms, broke out during redecoration.

CORRECTIONS

□ The consolidated unfunded governmental pension debt for the European Union is £10,000 billion, not £10 billion as incorrectly printed in Mr Norris McWhirter's letter of July 31.

□ Mr Robin Whitworth (obituary, July 31) was 85 when he died, not 95 as stated.

Relatives see film of sunken carrier

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RELATIVES of some of the 42 British seamen and two wives who died in the unsolved loss of the bulk carrier *Derbyshire* have been shown video footage of the wreck on the floor of the Pacific Ocean.

The sequences, taken as part of a government-funded exploration of the wreck site, show clear views of the stern of the 160,000-tonne vessel, the biggest British vessel lost at sea. Five family members were shown the footage at a briefing by three assessors appointed to carry out the £2 million investigation ordered by the Government after an inquiry headed by Lord Donaldson.

A remote control mini-submarine equipped with three cameras spent ten hours around the wreckage of the *Derbyshire*, which sank in a typhoon in 1980 and is broken into bow and stern sections 700 yards apart.

The footage increases hopes that the cause of the loss will be revealed. The video removes one possibility, that the *Derbyshire* had run into problems in high seas after losing its rudder.

Foreign vice may have fatal charm



MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF HIV-1, subtype E, had become established in South-East Asia before the late Lord Moynehan had started his brothels, it is unlikely that he would have died a millionaire. On the same day that the High Court unravelled his matrimonial arrangements, it was reported that some doctors believe that subtype E, which is prevalent in South-East Asia, could be more readily spread by heterosexual intercourse than subtype B, the common European variant.

There seems little evidence that the HIV epidemic among heterosexuals in South-East Asia is a result of any change in the virulence of the virus. Even so, this should discourage anyone who may be planning a visit to the New Dawn of Life massage parlour in the Philippines, a significant contributor to the Moynehan fortune.

HIV types 1 and 2 have long been recognised as unstable viruses: they are subject to both mutation and recombination. As yet no mutation has produced a virulent form of HIV, so the disease has been relatively difficult to catch through heterosexual intercourse and has, seemingly, been spread only rarely by accidental infection.

When the worldwide epidemic started, the instability of the virus caused alarm and considerable public debate in the United States, whereas in Britain little was said publicly. However, Barney Hayhoe told me that while he was Health Minister in the mid 1980s this hazard was regularly discussed in the department.

The prevalence of prostitution is more likely to be responsible for the spread of HIV in South-East Asia than any predilection of subtype E to attack heterosexual people.

It is rapidly becoming as dangerous to have casual sex in South-East Asia as it is in Africa. In both areas there is an acceptance of prostitution which, combined with the lack of clinics for treating sexually transmitted diseases, produces an ideal situation for spreading HIV.

In Britain we have the best clinics in the world and few women are left with chronic ulcers and sores after childbirth, the discharges from which are as good a medium as blood for HIV to flourish in.

In Asia, as in Africa, wide-spread migration spreads HIV. But the African migration is determined largely by economic necessity, whereas in Asia much of it is related to the holiday trade. Encouragingly, HIV among young men in Thailand is falling as a result of greater use of condoms, better sexual disease clinics and less use of prostitutes.

The Public Health Laboratory Service monitors HIV subtypes in England and Wales and would notice if there were an increase in one subtype which could be related to a change in the pattern of the epidemiology of the disease.

DR THOMAS
STUTTFORD

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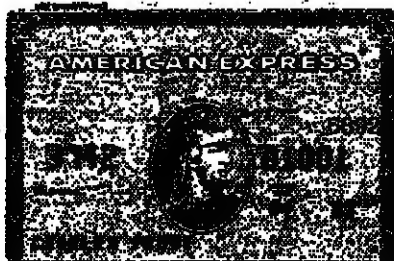


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Cards

Agency accused of treating health foods as medicine

By Robin Young

SARDINES contain so much vitamin B12 that they should be available only on prescription. It was claimed yesterday.

Maurice Hanssen, director of the Council for Responsible Nutrition, said British regulations concerning health foods and medicines were full of such anomalies.

Mr Hanssen, author of the best-selling book *E for Additives*, said: "Many other natural products could be reclassified as medicines if the Medicines Control Agency continues as it has since last December. They are so arbitrary they should be called the Medicines Out-of-Control Agency. They are seizing health supplements, vitamins and minerals and ordering them off the market in flat contradiction of stated government guidelines."

The agency, in recent moves that health food manufacturers regard as "aggressive", has banned products containing melatonin, marketed as a relief for jet lag, and questioned the status of Kira, a product based on St John's wort claimed to be a mild antidepressant. It also obliged the makers of Waterfall, a health product designed to help to maintain water balance through the menstrual cycle, to obtain a medicine licence.

The agency was established as an executive agency of the Department of Health in 1991 and became a commercial enterprise in 1993. Its main purpose is to safeguard public health with regard to medicines, for which it issues licences. Mr Hanssen said it



Vitamin-packed sardines

claimed to be implementing European legislation which declared that anything which prevents, treats or cures disease should be regarded as a medicine.

"An ordinary can of sardines contains 28 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B12. A health product with so much vitamin would be likely to be banned in many European countries unless it was registered as a medicine. We are in danger of being told here that sardines should only be eaten under medical supervision."

Mr Hanssen added that pork liver contains 60 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A; a litre of orange juice 6½ times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C; a kipper eight times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin D; and brown rice up to nine times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B1.

Herbal remedies such as camomile or feverfew could only be sold without the information about the conditions they were good for. "It is a ridiculous denial of information to consumers."

Anthony Bush, chairman of the Health Food Manufacturers Association, said: "The

British Government should be helping this sector promote health. Instead, their agency is treating health products as if they were medicines."

Mr Hanssen added that there was a danger that restrictive practices in some EU member states would mean upper limits being introduced for content of vitamins and minerals here. Greece, for example, had recently banned products containing more than the recommended daily allowance of any vitamin or mineral.

Maxwell Noble of Britannia Health Products added that cosmetics were also affected. He cited the case of a lip salve called VyrBrit, based on an extract of melissa (lemon balm) that could help to prevent cold sores. He said the agency initially accepted the salve as a cosmetic, but after the product's launch revoked its decision and said it must be registered as a medicine. "The whole business needs sorting out," he said.



Damon Hill, the British Formula One racing driver, relaxing at the Antibes Marineland aquatic park yesterday before his next race, in the Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest on Sunday

Lamb and Botham consider appeal

By Joanna Bale

THE cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb are "seriously considering" an appeal against their humiliating libel case defeat, their solicitor said yesterday.

"The verdict came as a great shock to them," Alan Herd of Sweeney Walsh in central London said. "They want to spend the weekend getting over it but they are seriously considering an appeal. I expect to know for sure by the beginning of next week."

The appeal must be lodged within 28 days of the verdict, which caused surprise in legal circles when it was delivered at the High Court on Wednesday. Mr Herd said that although it was a serious blow, the two men would "not find it a major problem" paying an estimated £400,000 costs for the 13-day case which they lost to the former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan. Because he made another allegation of libel distinct from his joint action with Lamb, Botham must pay two thirds of the bill — about £260,000.

Pet snakes may rival man's best friend

By Russell Jenkins and Diana Thomas

A PET boa constrictor can be good for your health and help you to live longer, according to a new study.

In a domestic setting, animal behaviourists have found that they can have the same soothing effect as a pet dog, slowing the owner's heart rate when he watches or strokes the snake.

Derek Grove, a curator at Dudley Zoo and breeder of rainbow boa constrictors, said that he enjoyed stroking the snakes he keeps in a cage in his bedroom. "I stroke them but don't let them out. They can calm you down and make very good pets."

Mr Grove, 33, who keeps other rainbow boas in cages in a garden shed, said snakes were less messy than a cat or dog and, after the cost of a cage and thermostat, were also cheaper to keep. He sells the offspring for £50 to £200.

"I feed them frozen rodents such as rats or mice, which I thaw out. A rat costs 35p and, depending on the size of the snake, many need to be fed only once a week," he said.

Dogs and cats are known to have a beneficial effect on people with heart problems and are often recommended for patients recuperating from heart surgery. Timothy Eddy, of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, studied the effect of more exotic pets. In one experiment, published for a pet therapy conference at Cambridge University, he measured the cardiac responses of a herpetologist to his 10-year-old boa constrictor.

Heart rate and blood pressure relaxed significantly when he was near the snake. Mr Eddy concluded that a wider range of animals should be considered as pets.



St John's wort

Hedgerow herb 'beats pills for depression'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

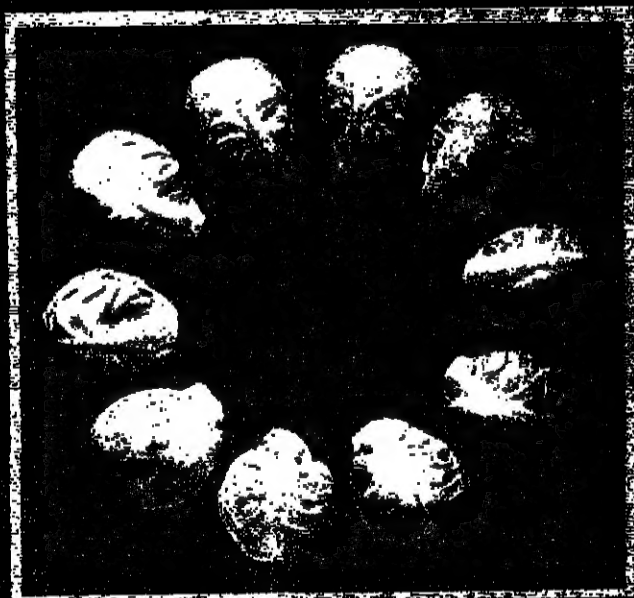
THE herb St John's wort is better than pills for banishing depression, according to German and American doctors. They say the wild relation of gardeners' hypericum is just as effective as drugs and has fewer side effects.

Used for years in Germany as a folk medicine, *Hypericum perforatum* is virtually unknown to doctors in English-speaking countries. The 2ft plant with five-petalled yellow flowers grows in hedgerows, woods and rough grassland.

In Germany, the seven leading preparations using extracts from St John's wort account for 2.7 million prescriptions a year worth £26 million. Dr Klaus Linde of Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, led colleagues and doctors from the Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, in examining the results of trials of the plant. They report in the *British Medical Journal* that it equalled the effect of standard antidepressants in treating mild to moderately severe depressive illness. The side-effects of the herbal remedy were lower.

But the doctors add that the trials were too small to be statistically certain. They call for further tests comparing St John's wort directly with antidepressants.

In an editorial in the journal, two Dutch doctors say that to be accepted as a treatment for major depression, the herb would have to meet the same rigorous demands laid down for synthetic antidepressants and that the studies cited by Dr Linde and his colleagues do not meet these criteria. But they say that the safety and tolerability of St John's wort argue in its favour and that bigger trials are justified.



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Imagine this. You are teasing yourself with an ice cold Beck's, a mere millimetre from your lips. You anticipate the melange of Hallertau hops and yeast combined with the purest glacial water from an ancient underground spring. Then, in sheer awe of the craftsmanship of the Bremen brewmasters, you succumb to temptation.

But your tastebuds tell you something is wrong. Your Beck's is not your Beck's. And do you know why? Because in pursuit of European harmonisation it has been decreed that all bier must now be brewed with 'standardised' water.

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Yes we salute Brussels' safety standards and respect their commitment to the environment. But when it comes to our bier it's no, nein, non.



BREWED IN BREMEN GERMANY SINCE 1874



Derek Grove soothing

Birmingham will save space by switching hundreds of staff to teleworking and 'hot-desking'

Council to cut costs with stay-at-home technology

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S largest local authority is to ask hundreds of staff to work from home or share desks in a drive to save £50 million a year.

Birmingham City Council hopes to make the savings by cutting its 750,000 sq ft of office space by 20 per cent this year and 10 per cent next year. If the experiment works, the council will be able to sell 225,000 sq ft of prime office space.

A small number of volunteers will be equipped with a home office including computer, an extra telephone line and answering machine, a fax and a modem to link them

to city hall. Each set of equipment will cost about £3,000.

Most of those who normally spend a large part of their working time out of the office will be asked to take part in a "hot-desking" scheme, where they can book times in advance to do necessary office work. This will avoid equipment and space standing idle for long periods.

Four staff in the council's consultancy division already work from home. Steve Trivett, 47, from Evesham in Hereford and Worcester, set up his home office a few weeks ago, ending the need to make the one-hour drive into Birmingham and home again each

day. He recommends the change: "You can work at times to suit yourself."

Birmingham is the largest employer to use teleworking, although other local authorities, banks, building societies and computer firms have been issuing workers with stay-at-home technology. The council expects that within the next 18 months about 7,000 of its 39,000 staff will no longer be using normal office space. At most a few hundred will be equipped to work from home. The majority will be supplied with high-tech equipment such as electronic notepads with modems.

Mary Mallet, the council's per-

sonnel director, said: "We are also looking at ways of storing documents by image processing so that we do not need all the space currently used for records. The idea is to free the money locked up in bricks so that it can be used to provide services for the people. The idea of people stuck at home chained to a word processor in the bedroom is quite wrong. We want a highly mobile staff, well-equipped to work out of the office and not stuck at home."

According to Alan Deighton, executive director of the Teleworker Centre Association, the system increases productivity, decreases staff turnover and is the perfect

antidote to commuting difficulties. "The average Londoner spends 57 minutes travelling each way to work, the equivalent of nearly 1½ working days in a five-day week," he said. "That is wasted time."

He said the system was particularly good for services where employees had to pay site visits or see customers in their own homes or offices. "Staff do not have to waste time going back to their own office to write up reports, but can download from their own home or from a local satellite telecentre. It saves time and helps the environment by not clogging up the roads."

However, he said that the idea does not work if it is introduced

just to save money. "There should be no coercion and there have to be regular staff meetings so they can keep in touch with what is happening. They must not be allowed to think that if they are out of sight they are out of mind."

Mark Copes, project manager for a pilot scheme being introduced by Surrey County Council next month, said the system had the long-term potential to change service delivery in local government. "Budgets are getting tighter and demand is increasing so we have got to find new ways of improving services," he said.

Surrey has spent £150,000 on the pilot project, equipping an office in

Epsom with desks, computers and support staff to help employees to send work down the line to county hall. The centre will be available for use by some staff living in the area so they do not have to travel up to an hour to work.

Forty Hertfordshire County Council trading standards inspectors have been using laptop computers to compile reports in their home for a year. The department now needs only one floor of an office block instead of two entire buildings for its records and staff. The council is also about to open a network of satellite computer offices where staff can use equipment linked to county hall.

Tourists opt for England's green and pleasant land

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are spurning the heat, sea and sand of the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean, to stay in England. The tourism industry is booming, and last year 53 million British holidaymakers spent £7 billion enjoying themselves in England.

Domestic tourism trips rose by 10 per cent last year and domestic holiday spending rose 3 per cent. The most popular destination was the West Country. The number of British visitors to London rose by 22 per cent; the number who went to Northumberland by 25 per cent. Tourism officials put the increase down to last year's summer of sunshine and to improved facilities for tourists in England.

"England is well placed to capture holidaymakers tired of airport delays, standardised facilities and excessive heat, who prefer instead 'greener', more active and rewarding holidays," the chief executive of the English Tourist Board, Tim Bartlett, said yesterday.

However, £3.7 billion more a year is still spent on foreign rather than domestic holidays,

and tourism chiefs are determined to make it easier to book an English holiday.

Among the proposals considered is for local retailers to fund high-technology equipment in tourist information centres and for travel agents to spend more time selling domestic packages to holidaymakers. The board's chairman, David Quarby, said: "I am aware how frustrating it can be when you cannot find what you want, or do not know even where to start looking. My personal view is that the information revolution has so far passed the tourist industry by. There is a massive opportunity to develop information infrastructure and to make available new services on travel, attractions, accommodation and eating out."

Mr Quarby, presenting the tourist board's annual report in London, said that it could not pay for the introduction of the high-technology equipment but was looking at whether travel agents and local businesses might do so.

Leading article, page 17

HOLIDAY SPENDING

Destination	trips (m)	% rise	spend (£m)
West Country	15.8	5	2,220
Southern	12.4	17	1,100
East Anglia	11	8	980
London	10.4	21	880
Yorks and Humber	10.2	10	850
Heart of England	9.6	3	715
North West	9.6	12	1,080
South East	8.9	13	725
East Midlands	8	5	710
Northumbria	3.6	23	370
Cumbria	3.3	14	410



The hotel's tariff card on its opening in 1896, when a seawater bedroom bath cost a shilling and there was no charge for afternoon tea

Hotel celebrates 100 years of family service

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN HOTEL that yesterday celebrated 100 years of service to visitors to East Sussex is thought to be unique in Britain in having been owned and managed by one family.

The York House Hotel in Eastbourne has had to mark its centenary alone after advertising to find other establishments that could match the claim, but none came forward. It celebrated by treating guests to Victorian charabanc rides along the seafront, and a newscast for 1896, read by the veteran radio presenter Alan Freeman with items gleaned from *The Times* of 100 years ago.

The 90-room hotel, which is listed with two stars in the AA and RAC guides, started as a boarding house opened by Susanna Barratt and her 18-year-old daughter, Sarah, on August 1, 1896. That year they achieved a turnover of £156 and were soon able to

buy the leases of neighbouring properties. Mrs Barratt died in 1902 leaving the hotel to Sarah, who in 1904 married Douglas Williamson, from Catford, one of the young Londoners who cycled down for holidays in her hotel. It is their grandson, Matthew Williamson, who owns and runs the hotel today.

By 1917 the hotel's turnover reached £6,576. Only 8 per cent went on wages though all the water for the bedrooms had to be fetched. Visitors could also request fresh sea water to bathe in and have coal fires in their rooms.

In the 1920s the hotel made headlines when some of its residents, protesting at a shortage of changing facilities on Eastbourne beach, braved arrest by trooping across the parade already wearing swimming costumes. Sarah Williamson died in 1930 by which time she had become chairman

PRICES 1896-1996

Cost per person for dinner, bed and breakfast at the York House Hotel	1896	1996
1896	£1 8s	(£1.40)
1906	£2 12s 6d	(£2.62)
1916	£2 12s 6d	(£2.62)
1926	£3 13s 6d	(£3.67)
1936	£5 5s	(£5.25)
1946	£15 15s	(£15.75)
1956	£11 6d	(£11.2)
1966	£15 15s	(£15.75)
1976	£51	
1986	£164	
1996	£252	

of the Eastbourne Hotels' Association. The business was carried on by three of her children. In 1932 fitted basins were installed in some rooms, with coke-fired boilers supplying hot water to the whole hotel. The York House was closed and damaged during the Second World War, but

was reopened in 1945 by Sarah's son, Alan. A lift was installed in 1962.

Matthew Williamson, Alan's son, took over as manager in 1972 after training in Britain and Bermuda. His first step was to apply for a residential liquor licence and open a bar. A laundry came in 1975, an electric service lift in 1977, the first private bathrooms in 1978, and a heated indoor swimming pool in 1983.

A direct-dial telephone system to all bedrooms was introduced in 1991, and the final corridor links between the individual houses that make up the hotel were completed in 1994. The hotel's celebrations this week end with a seafood party on Sunday.

Mr Williamson said: "We are very proud and pleased at what appears to be a unique family history in hotel management. Our prices over the years also show that we have survived what I calculate to have been 2,200 per cent inflation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lorry kills AA man on hard shoulder

An AA patrolman and a passenger in a stranded car were killed when a lorry crashed into them on a motorway hard shoulder. John Jones, 46, died when the Parcel Line articulated lorry veered off the northbound M40 near Gaydon, Warwickshire, on Wednesday night, hitting his AA van and the car on which he was working. The second victim was Zafar Ali Khan, 40, of Dudley, West Midlands. The car driver, Tariq Hamayum, 19, is seriously ill with broken ribs and legs and neck injuries. Anthony Young, 59, the lorry driver, of Reading, suffered shock.

Bound over

Ray Kennedy, 45, the former England Arsenal and Liverpool football player who has Parkinson's disease, was bound over by magistrates in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, to keep the peace after a disturbance at the home of his former girlfriend, Audrey Broomfield, 34.

Cyanide deaths

An Asian family of five found dead in May were killed by injections of potassium cyanide. Southampton coroner's office said. Tests have shown that Mahendra Karia, 42, his wife Mayuri, 39, and their daughters would have died quickly and painlessly. An inquest will open on Tuesday.

Granny banned

A 76-year-old grandmother who stuck her tongue out at teenagers trying to stop her turning the wrong way down a dual carriageway was banned for a year. Ruby Thomsett, of Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, hit another car but drove on. She denied dangerous driving.

Row brewing

A Welsh brewery has named a beer after the former commander of the Free Wales Army, Julian Cayo Evans. Thomas Watkins and Sons of Llandeilo, Dyfed, said Evans would be a folk hero in years to come. Richard Lewis, a councillor, accused the brewery of honouring a terrorist.

Boiler charges

The landlord of a bedsitter in Durham where Anne Brennan, 19, died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a boiler, is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive. Graham Williams and the engineer who fitted the boiler, Edgar Reed Maddison, face five charges.

Caught out

A cricket club treasurer who conned a travel agent out of almost £18,000 to try to cover up his own dishonesty has been jailed for 18 months by Maidstone Crown Court. Andrew Cooper, 35, of Glaston, Kent, stole from club funds that he was holding for a planned tour of Barbados.

P-reg tragedy

A retired doctor was killed when his new P-registered car crashed into a lamp post hours after he had collected it from a garage at Dudley, West Midlands, on the first day of the new registration. The £22,000 Saab 9000CD of Dr John Donaldson, 80, had 23 miles on the clock.

Degree honoured

A woman who was strangled five months before the end of her degree course at Hope University College, Liverpool, has graduated posthumously. Hilida Farrell accepted the degree on behalf of her daughter, Lesley Pilling, 36. A man has been charged with murder.

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Treasure experts bury hope of fortune

TWO treasure hunters and a farmer who believed they were worth a million pounds after finding Celtic and Roman coins and jewellery have been told the haul is worth £103,000.

Peter Beasley and Peter Murphy of Waterlooville, Hampshire, used metal detectors to unearth the haul on farmland near Petersfield in March. They agreed to share proceeds equally with the landowner, John Dalton.

The 256 coins helped historians to identify a Celtic king, Tincmarus, who ruled about 50 BC, and shed light on trade between the Romans and tribes in the south of England. A panel of experts appointed by the Department of National Heritage decided that the hoard's solid gold Roman bracelet was worth £1,650, a gold ring £2,350 and the coins £99,074.

Mr Beasley, 56, a bricklayer, said: "Letters from the British Museum have continually emphasised the historical value of the find. It seems to me that the committee has completely ignored this in valuing the coins and the jewellery." He and Mr Murphy had hoped the coins alone would be worth £900,000.

The committee took into account three independent valuations and the museum's estimate. Sotheby's said: "Huge numbers of coins are recovered. The laws of supply and demand dictate that the price will inevitably fall." The museum hopes to raise money to buy the hoard.

A guide to Roman Britain starts in *The Times* tomorrow.



One of the young

Seahorses to colonise coastline

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

YOUNG spiny seahorses are being dispatched to 16 sites this week in preparation for an attempt to re-establish them around the coast.

The young, 3cm long, were among the first to be bred in captivity in Britain. Seahorses were thought to have died out around the coast, but last summer fishermen off Weymouth found seven in their nets. They bred in June at the resort's Sea Life Centre and some of the offspring are being sent to other centres ready for release next year.

Mark Oakley, of Sea Life Centres, said divers had been asked to search for more wild colonies. "They will be the ideal places to release our seahorses."

Weather in July lives up to tradition

By DIANA THORP

BRITAIN was occasionally hotter than the Mediterranean, three women were struck by lightning at a Buckingham Palace garden party and Wimbledon was drenched with rain as the country enjoyed "a typical summer's month" in July.

July 1996 was slightly warmer, sunnier and drier than average. But a spokesman from the Meteorological Office said: "It was no record breaker."

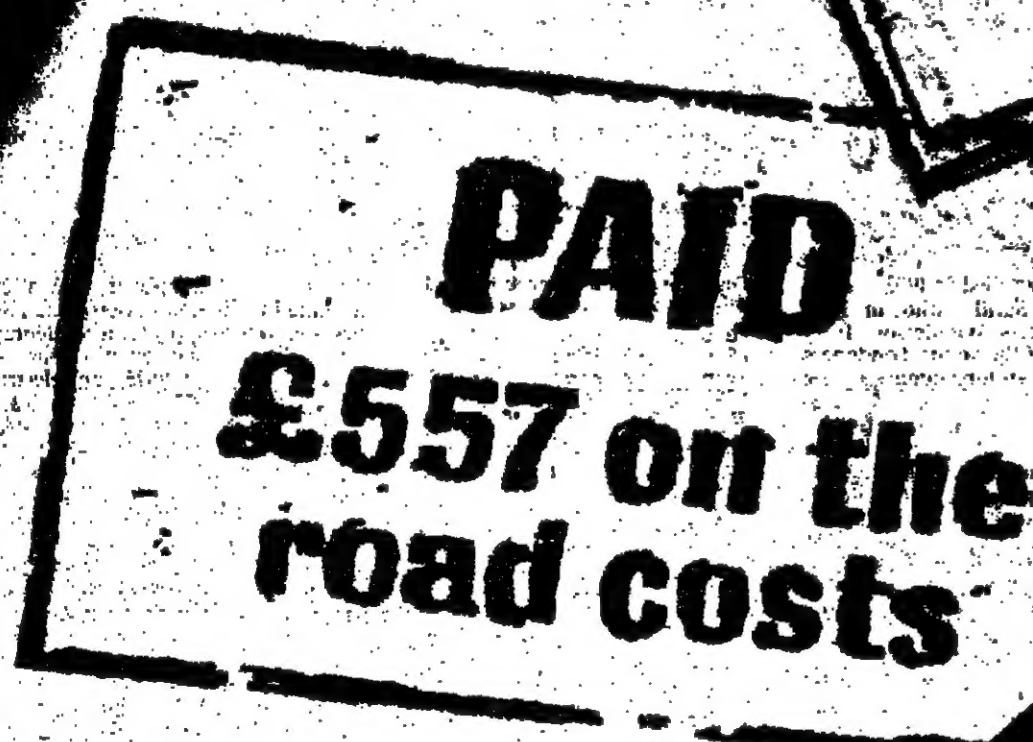
The hottest day of the year so far was July 22 when it soared to 33C in Jersey, compared to last year's high of 35.2C recorded in Boxworth, Cambridgeshire, on August 1.

The average central England temperature was 16.5C, only slightly warmer than the 30-year average of 16.1C and lower than the average last July of 18.6C.

But with an average of 7.37 hours of sunshine each day, July 1996 was not only sunnier than the average 5.96 hours, but also sunnier than 1995 when the country caught only 7.16 hours of sunshine a day in July. It was the 15th sunniest July since records began in 1909.

Just when Shetlanders were thinking their cold summer could not get any worse, it snowed yesterday. Meteorologists described it as "soft hail", but Ian Anderson, a Lerpwick radio presenter who saw it through his studio window at 6am, said: "It seemed like snow to me."

Weather, page 20



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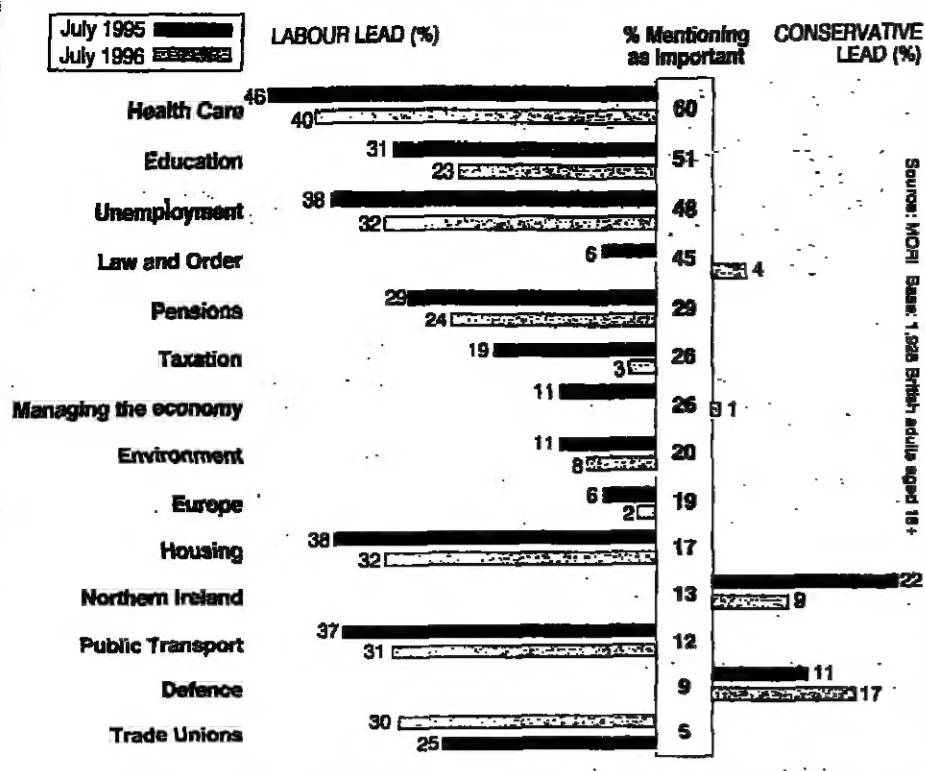
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Q For each one, tell me whether you think the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats or some other party has the best policy.



Labour retains clear lead, MORI poll shows

Tories regain lost ground on crime and the economy

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Tories have recovered to move ahead of Labour as the party having the best policies on law and order and managing the economy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. Labour, however, still has a clear lead on eight of the top ten issues (and ten of the top 14) that people believe will be very important to them in voting at the general election.

In order of importance, Labour is rated as best on healthcare, education, unemployment, pensions, taxation, the environment, Europe, housing, public transport and trade unions. The Tories now lead on law and order (ranked

fourth), managing the economy (sixth), Northern Ireland (eleventh), and defence (thirteenth). Labour had been ahead on managing the economy since the last general election and ahead on law and order since May 1994, reversing long periods of traditional Tory dominance on these issues. The Tories have improved their position on all 14 of the issues except Northern Ireland where the party has probably suffered from the handling of the Orange Order marches last month.

The biggest improvements for the Tories over the past year have occurred in taxation, managing the economy

and law and order. This ties in with the gradual improvement in economic optimism. Tory strategists will be pleased that above-average shifts have occurred on these issues among the very group they are appealing to now — those who have switched away from the party since the 1992 election. Nonetheless, the Tories are still very weak on the main economic issues among this group compared with party loyalists.

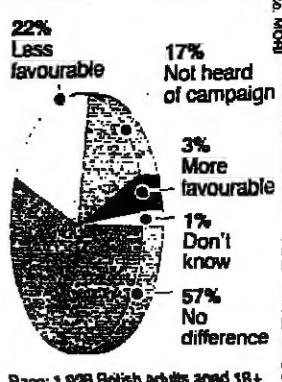
Europe has moved only from tenth most important issue to ninth. It is regarded as "very important" by 19 per cent of the public compared with 60 per cent for healthcare. Labour supporters

seem to be firmer in their confidence in their party's policies than do Tory supporters. Whereas Tory loyalists mention their party as having the best policies on an average of 7.4 issues, the score is 8.2 for Labour loyalists and is as much as 6.5 among supporters new to Labour since the 1992 election.

It is also revealing that while readers of *The Daily Telegraph* rate the Tories as best on twice as many policies as Labour, readers of the *Daily Mail* and *The Times* rate the two main parties best on an equal number of issues. MORI interviewed 1,928 adults at 149 ward sampling points between July 23 and 28.

"NEW LABOUR, NEW DANGER"

Q Has this campaign made you more or less favourable towards the Conservative Party?



"Danger" ads fail

THE Tories' "New Labour, New Danger" advertising campaign, with its dramatic black-and-red posters showing sinister eyes looking out from behind a curtain, has so far backfired, according to the MORI poll (Peter Riddell writes).

A mere 4 per cent say the campaign has made them less favourable towards Labour, while 11 per cent say it has made them more favourable. The £5 million campaign might have damaged the Tories: 22 per cent say it has made them less favourable towards the party with a mere 3 per cent claiming it had made them more favourable. The posters have even failed to affect the Tories' main target group of switch voters: 22 per cent of new supporters of Labour say it has made them more favourable to Labour.

Hostility to Major abates, but it may be too late to save his party

THE Tories are beginning to claw back some ground in the opinion polls, but their recovery is still slow and patchy. The positive news for the party is that, leaving aside monthly fluctuations, its underlying rating is improving slowly. Optimism about the economy is rising and the public are becoming less hostile to the Government and to John Major personally over their performance in office.

The MORI economic optimism index, which gauges how many think that the general economic condition will improve against those

who think it will get worse, now stands at minus nine points. The average index for April to July is half the deficit of the previous four months.

Moreover, the Tories have made some headway in winning back support on key issues such as the economy, taxation, and law and order, particularly among those who have deserted the party since 1992. If consumer confidence and spending continue to grow, there could be further benefits for the Tories.

Mr Major himself also retains a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

personal appeal, among some Liberal Democrats and new Labour supporters.

Nonetheless, Labour remains in a commanding position — in sustaining its overall lead and on most of the key issues that worry voters, such as healthcare, education and unemployment.

The Tory recovery, such as it is, is smaller and later than Labour strategists feared. And there is evidence that new Labour support-

ers are affirming their commitment to the party.

There are a few reasons for Labour to reflect. The party has not fully got rid of its "tax and spend" image, nor really convinced people about how it could make a positive difference in office, despite the launch of its mini-manifesto.

Mr Blair remains the party's main asset, so Labour strategists are puzzling over the sharp fall last month in his personal approval

rating (those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with his performance) to the lowest level of his two-year leadership. This may be explained in part by the publicity over the Shadow Cabinet elections and the "demon" of Clare Short. Mr Blair's advisers believe that assertions of strong leadership by him have helped the party, but on this occasion that may have been offset by the impression of divisions.

It could be a temporary decline, but the other parties believe that Labour is vulnerable to charges of being arrogant and taking voters for

granted. It is striking that the decline in Mr Blair's personal rating was far larger among supporters of Labour since 1992 (from plus 61 to plus 41 points) than among long-term Labour loyalists (from plus 59 to plus 47).

These shifts are small compared with the seismic change in attitudes triggered by Black Wednesday, the battles over the Maastricht treaty and the tax rises of the first half of the Parliament. The Tories now have an unprecedented 53 point gap to close: before those troubles the gap was 29 points.

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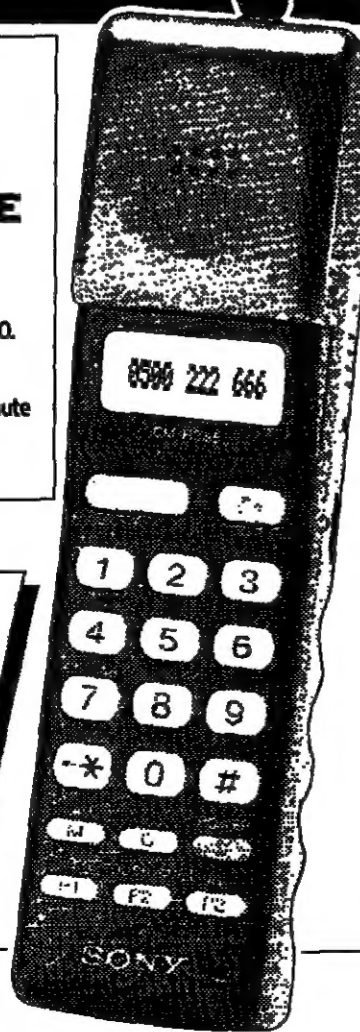
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Home Office hits back at claim by firearms lobby

By RICHARD FORD AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Home Office last night rejected the gun lobby's attempt to undermine the argument linking the availability of firearms to violent crime.

Officials published a strong defence of the Home Office's evidence to Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre, emphasising strong links between the ownership of guns and gun-related homicide. The paper was released after the gun lobby had told the inquiry that the government figures were unreliable.

Yesterday the Home Office said supporters of the gun lobby had failed to challenge evidence indicating a relationship between gun ownership and gun homicide. They also said that the lobby had not undermined evidence that gun ownership increased overall homicide rates.

In an additional submission

Police chief fines careless marksmen

FIVE police firearms experts whose Smith and Wesson revolvers fell out of a van were each fined £400 by their chief constable yesterday.

They were returning to Nottinghamshire police headquarters after a shooting practice last August when a holdall containing the guns tumbled through a side door left open to keep the officers cool.

They were picked up by two men in a following car who sold them to a convicted drug dealer. He planned to sell them to criminal contacts but lost his nerve and dumped them in a ditch. Four men were later jailed for plotting to sell the guns.

to Lord Cullen's inquiry, the Home Office emphasises the links between gun ownership and the incidence of violent crime. It had been asked to produce the document after the gun lobby claimed it had submitted evidence which "destroyed" research findings linking gun ownership with high levels of gun homicide. The Home Office document also said that it was significant "that no serious challenge was made of the similar correlation between gun ownership and gun-related suicides, or of the fact that extremely marked differences in gun-related crime in the US compared to England and Wales are not echoed in offences in which guns are not involved".

The Home Office emphasised that the document did not constitute government policy, and did not prejudice the response the Government would eventually make to the Cullen report. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has indicated that he will bring forward a Bill for new gun controls should Lord Cullen make proposals in his report that require legislation.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, said yesterday that Labour MPs would vote with the Government if John Major faced down his backbenchers and legislated to ban handguns. Mr Dewar said that the Prime Minister should not wait until Lord Cullen's report is published this autumn but end the confusion over where the Government stood.

He said that the Government would then face a backlash from at least a dozen of its own backbenchers, as well as the six Conservative MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee who have already stated that they would be opposed to such a Bill.

Britain launches fast-reaction force

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RAPID deployment force to react to a range of crises worldwide was officially launched yesterday. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that some of the joint Services' force of up to 10,000 troops would be on 24-hour notice and others on five-days' alert.

The core of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force is provided by units of 3 Commando Brigade and 5 Airborne Brigade, with other elements of the Army, RAF and Royal Navy assigned to provide additional combat power, including an aircraft carrier, Tornado squadrons and submarines.

This is the first time that the Ministry of Defence has formed a triservice rapidly deployable force, backed up by

a permanent staff. They are preparing for such emergencies as evacuating British citizens from foreign conflicts or acting as the bridgehead in war zones for follow-on troops and armour.

Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, a former commander of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service, has been appointed the force's first chief. He operates from a new permanent joint headquarters at Northwood that cost £7 million to set up and will cost £16 million a year to run.

Although the force of up to reinforced brigade strength will not be equipped with tanks or heavy artillery, Mr Portillo said that the intention was to provide the framework for a larger and heavier force if required.

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Sweeping benefit reforms bring fears of hardship for America's neediest and youngest citizens

Redwood cheers as US rolls back 60 years of welfare

FROM TOM RHODES AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

JOHN REDWOOD last night endorsed an American welfare reform Bill that reverses the New Deal philosophy of Franklin Roosevelt and eliminates more than six decades of guaranteed federal government assistance to millions in the United States.

One of the strongest proponents of welfare reform in Britain, Mr Redwood said in Washington that Whitehall was proceeding along a different path but that the goals were similar in both countries. "I congratulate your Republican Congress and your President on the welfare Bill," said Mr Redwood. "Welfare is one of those problems that affects all the great industrialised nations of the world. We have outgrown the welfare of the immediate postwar period and it is right that administrators and politicians are changing their welfare system for the 21st century."

Mr Redwood, who resigned from the Cabinet last year to challenge John Major for the party leadership, is aiming to enhance his reputation as a Tory leader-in-waiting during his visit to the United States. His proposals for welfare reform would not follow the present American example of cutting entitlements, he said, but would concentrate on future incentives to ensure pensions for the retired workforce and to encourage greater family responsibility in raising children.

Nevertheless, there is little

question that the American model will resonate in Britain, just as Roosevelt's New Deal became an inspiration for the British welfare state.

It is now more than 60 years since Roosevelt rescued America from its era of deepest gloom, whose haunting images of dole queues and soup kitchens were forever captured in *Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?* — the song which became a symbol of the Depression.

That guarantee of "some measure of protection to the

average citizen", that poor children and their families would be entitled to benefits, grew into a welfare debate that now embraces 12 million people, massive fraud and a catalogue of malfeasance.

In a fundamental shift in philosophy, the American welfare gravy train was brought to an effective terminus this week with the new Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act that President Clinton has agreed to sign. The Bill ends the 61-year-old federal guarantee of assistance for poor children, passing the responsibility to the states which will receive grants to operate their own welfare programmes. There will be a five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits, recipients will have to go on welfare, food stamps will be cut and legal immigrants barred from most benefits. The Bill will reduce projected spending by \$55 billion (£35.4 billion) over six years.

The ideas of the New Deal gave the federal government a role in the lives of every American individual as never before. It provided jobs, welfare and a control on the economy. In the 1960s, Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" legislation crafted an even stronger safety net with the introduction of Medicare.

It was not until Ronald Reagan ran for the White House that the notion of curbing government largesse was raised. He claimed that



Henry Fonda in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck's story of life and hard times in the Depression. Roosevelt's New Deal rescued America from that era, and later inspired the British welfare system

"welfare queens" were arriving to collect benefit cheques in limousines and fur coats. These characters were never actually seen.

In 1992, Bill Clinton made perhaps his most popular campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it". For three years he has struggled to achieve that goal without either destroying his ideological base or creating a schism between moderates and liberals in the Democratic Party.

Republicans have known since they captured control of Congress two years ago that they had the President in a corner. They forced him to

veto two previous welfare reform Bills that he felt went too far in undermining core liberal values. With the election less than 100 days away, however, both sides needed a Bill to offer the electorate.

Mr Clinton and Congress can now claim separate victories while liberal Democrats and, ironically, Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, are seen as the losers. Mr Dole, no longer in the Senate, was reduced to claiming authorship of the legislation and scoffed at Mr Clinton's "election-year conversion".

The legislation propels enormous responsibility to the

50 states, many of which have already tested parts of the programme. Wisconsin is now saving \$12 million a month and has reduced its welfare caseload by 40 per cent through welfare.

Recipients are required, as a condition of receiving benefits, to spend seven hours a day searching for a job. Although many have trouble finding anything that will lift them above the poverty level, successful applicants only have praise for the scheme.

No-one now knows what hardships the legislation may impose on America's neediest and youngest citizens, nor how

it will affect such backward states as Mississippi where Third World conditions of poverty exist. The *New York Times*, in an editorial, described it as a "sad day for poor children" and predicted that the effect on cities with large immigrant populations would be devastating.

"It is not humane to remove a federal guarantee of welfare aid and create the leeway for additional punitive cuts at the state level," it said. "A Bill that creates child poverty is not an acceptable way to end welfare as we know it."

Leading article, page 17

The buck stops at California county

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE prospect of federal welfare reform has been greeted with dismay in America's most populous county, amid warnings of municipal bankruptcy.

Less than a year after its worst financial crisis, Los Angeles County now faces the task of providing a financial safety net for one in five of America's legal immigrants. "It's devastating to the county," Gloria Molina, a supervisor and staunch ally of President Clinton, said of the welfare Bill which could deprive 400,000 constituents of federal aid. "This is probably going to bankrupt us."

In an editorial headed "Welfare Reform at California's Expense", the *Los Angeles Times* wrote: "Expect lines of elderly, blind or disabled immigrants at relief agencies, for they will no longer be eligible for federal benefits." An estimated 93,000 immigrants in Los Angeles County will lose federal income support worth \$236 million (£152 million) a year, officials say. The new Bill will also leave state bodies to decide whether about 200,000 legal immigrant families — many of them Russians and Eastern Europeans with scant grasp of English or capitalism — are entitled to food stamps, child support and healthcare.

California as a whole will forgo \$10 billion it had been expecting from the federal Government over the next six years. Half of that had been earmarked for Los Angeles County, officials say.

Township protesters set fire to train

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A TRAIN was set alight yesterday in Tembisa, 20 miles northeast of Johannesburg, as township residents vowed to continue their protest after the deaths of 15 people in a station stampede.

With tension still running high after clashes between police and youths the previous day, firefighters were called yesterday to extinguish a blaze on a commuter train. No one was injured. The township stations were almost deserted as residents headed a call to boycott Metro Rail trains in protest at the tragedy.

Residents have pledged to conduct an arson campaign to protest at the appalling transport conditions in the township and the heavy-handed use of force by security guards at the main commuter station.

The guards have been accused of provoking a stampede by firing shots and using electric batons on commuters. Metro Rail yesterday withdrew its security personnel for fear of aggravating the situation after youths had threatened to lynch the men.

News of simmering unrest in Tembisa coincided with calls for a clampdown on the use of electric batons. Amnesty International South Africa said yesterday that it had previously called for a ban on the use of "electric shock weapons" until regulations governing their manufacture, sale and use were in place and called on the Government to take urgent action.

Witnesses to Wednesday's tragedy claimed that security guards had inflicted injuries

on commuters by pressing batons on bare flesh, including faces. At least one of those critically injured suffered shock burns and heart problems as a result of the batons' use. According to medical staff at a township hospital, more than 50 people were injured in the stampede.

The South African-manufactured shock baton is powered by a battery in its handle and a three to eight-second burst is capable of knocking an adult man to the ground. Electronic stun guns were banned in Britain in 1988. According to regulations in South Africa, the peak voltage recommended is 10,000 volts, but manufacturers admit that their shock batons emit impulses of up to 50,000 volts.

Amnesty said the Government was wrong not to classify the devices as weapons and called for regulation in the export of electric shock devices.

"Many of these weapons are dangerous and in some cases deadly," the group said. "Various South African companies have claimed to export these weapons to countries such as China and Egypt, which are notorious for systematic and widespread torture." □ **Darban:** The trial of Magnus Malan, the apartheid-era Defence Minister, and 16 others resumed here yesterday with the accused continuing to challenge claims of covert paramilitary activities. All the accused deny charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. (AP)

Fugitive US financier goes on trial in Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ON THE run for 25 years, one of America's most notorious fugitives went on trial yesterday — in Cuba. After one apparent scam too many, Robert Vesco was arrested last year in Havana and faces 20 years in jail for "illicit economic activity".

The son of a Detroit car mechanic, the financier, 60, is wanted in the US for allegedly stealing more than \$200 million (£132 million) from investors. He fled in 1971, buying protection wherever he went.

Ten years later, after running out of money and friends, he vanished again. When he reappeared in 1985, he was in Cuba, which granted him

refuge on medical grounds. Mr Vesco is alleged to have engaged in several subsequent criminal escapades, amassing further US charges, including drug running and smuggling in breach of the US trade embargo against Cuba.

Last year he was arrested by Cuban authorities, with his business partner Donald Nixon, nephew of the former US President, and accused of spying for "special foreign services". He is now formally charged with acts "prejudicial to the economic plans of the country" for his role in a project to develop a drug for cancer and arthritis behind the back of his Cuban hosts.

Maid given big Manila welcome

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

SARAH BALABANGAN, a teenage Filipina maid spared from a death sentence in the United Arab Emirates, returned home as a celebrity yesterday.

Miss Balabangan, 17, who had been lionised by the Philippine press as a symbol of the ordeal suffered by more than four million Philippines workers abroad, was met at Manila airport by a senior Foreign Ministry official, who shepherded her into a packed press conference.

The girl had spent two years in jail in the UAE and received 100 lashes for killing her elderly Arab employer after he had allegedly tried to



Balabangan at a press conference yesterday

rape her. An Islamic court condemned her to death last September. She admitted that she had repeatedly stabbed her employer after he had raped her. However, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, the President of the UAE, later commuted the sentence.

WORLD SUMMARY

Crash jet baggage blamed

New York: Thirteen more bodies were found yesterday in a 50ft length of fuselage off Long Island as investigators continued to seek the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800 (James Bone writes).

With 184 of the 230 victims' bodies now recovered, investigators said that the plane's forward cargo hold, where a bomb is thought to have exploded, contained passenger bags rather than commercial freight. That suggests that a bomb could have been carried by an unwitting passenger, a suicide bomber, or a baggage handler. Louis Fréchet, the FBI director, said there was still no "credible" evidence of a crime to justify his agency taking over the investigation.

US defence pact with Mongolia

Washington: Mongolia has signed a defence co-operation agreement with America as part of its bid to expand ties with the West and Japan (Ian Brodie writes). Under the agreement, the two sides will have exchanges of military officers, with Mongolians being trained at US military academies. The US will donate computers for Mongolian military schools and will provide emergency aid during natural disasters in Mongolia.

Tamil Tigers to be banned

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Government will ban the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam this week, a Defence Ministry source said (Vijitha Yapa writes). "Despite breaching the ceasefire of 1995, the Government... left the doors open hoping they would come for talks," the source said. The Tigers' struggle to create a separate state for the island's minority Tamils has cost more than 50,000 lives.

Tudjman faces pressure in US

President Tudjman of Croatia is expected to come under fierce pressure, when he meets President Clinton in Washington today, to do more to influence hardline Croats in Bosnia who are undermining the Dayton peace process (Eve Ann Prentice writes). Mr Tudjman will also be pressed to use his influence to end a Croat boycott of the newly elected council in Mostar.

Workings of Israel's secret service exposed

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE operational structure of Mossad, Israel's secret intelligence service, which has always prided itself on weaving a cloak of impenetrable secrecy around its covert operations, has been disclosed by a British specialist journal.

The details of Mossad's "family tree" appear in *Jane's Sentinel* journal, which has published a special edition on the eastern Mediterranean. The Israeli defence establishment has already reacted with concern over revelations in the same publication about the location of all its air bases.

The detailed focus on the air force and intelligence services is to be published in *Sentinel* next week. Apart from studying the internal workings of Mossad, which is estimated to employ about 1,200 people, the journal looks at the rest of the Israeli intelligence community, including Shin Bet, the counter-espionage agency and internal security service.

Mossad, the Central Institute for Intelligence and Special Missions, is the equivalent of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6. Israeli newspapers and broadcasting services are prohibited from writing about Mossad.

According to the journal, Mossad's largest operational branch is the Collections Department, responsible for intelligence-gathering operations abroad. The Collections Department is split into sections "desks" covering different regions. Branch A is said to cover Spain, Egypt, Cyprus

and Algeria. Branch C is reported to cover the Mossad stations in London, Paris and Marseille.

The journal also says that Mossad has a clandestine operations command, known within the Israeli secret service as Metsada, which runs "small units of combatants who carry out actions abroad against those considered to be a threat to Israeli security".

The journal says: "These missions have included assassinations and sabotage." The Metsada unit is said to be answerable directly to the head of Mossad, who was recently named by the Israeli Government as Major-General Danny Yatom, 51. General Yatom, said to be nicknamed "The Prussian", replaced Shabtai Shavit who resigned

Death protest in West Bank

Nablus, West Bank: Palestinians burnt tyres, threw stones and wrecked a petrol station yesterday in protest against the death of a detainee, severely beaten and burned by Palestinian interrogators.

As Mahmoud Jemayel's body was escorted to the city cemetery, women hurled bottles at police, and protesters demolished pumps at a petrol station belonging to the mayor, Ghassan Shakaa, believed by many to be behind the killing. Mr Shakaa, a confidant of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, denied involvement. (AP)

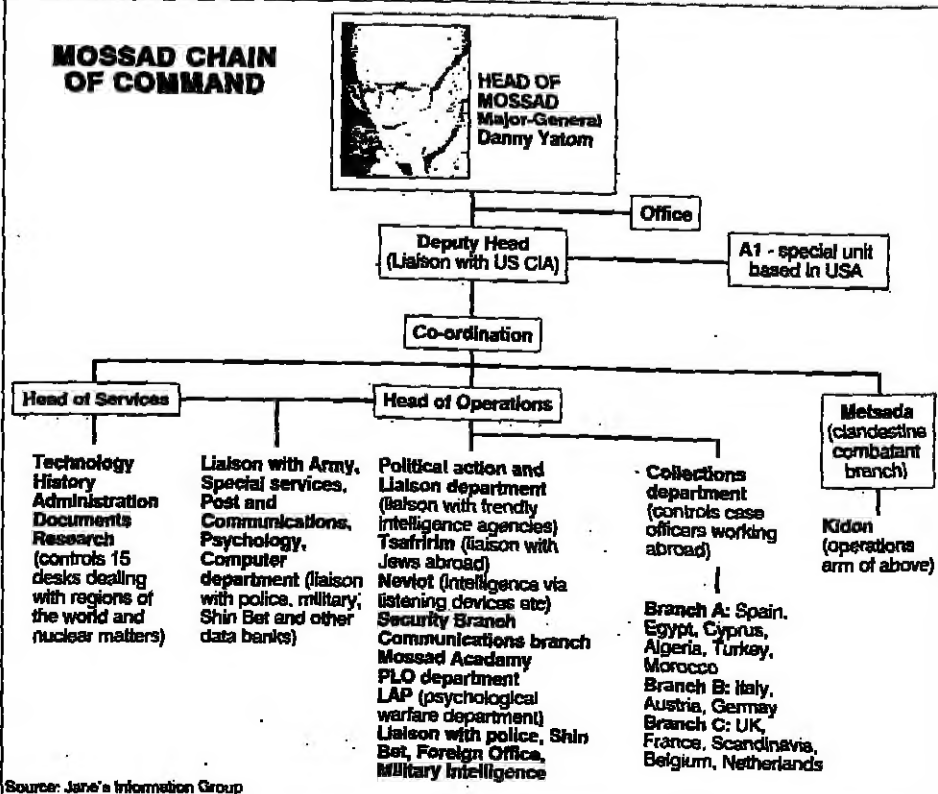
earlier this year after nearly seven years as Mossad's head.

Other Mossad branches are listed as the Political Action and Liaison Department which deals with friendly foreign intelligence services, including the American CIA and Britain's MI6, and a special section called LAP (Lohamah Psychlogit) which covers psychological warfare.

The journal says that one of the most important of the support departments is the Research Department, which has 15 separate desks, including ones for the United States, Canada, Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, Libya, Syria and Iran. It says there is also a nuclear desk which specialises solely in nuclear developments around the world. Israel is known to be keeping a close watch on Iran's nuclear ambitions; Iran is said to be ten to 15 years away from a nuclear bomb.

Sentinel says Mossad's Research Department produces short daily reports and longer weekly summaries on all areas of interest.

Shin Bet, the internal service, is reported to have three operational departments and five support departments. The operational sections are listed as the Arab Affairs Department, which monitors suspected Arab subversives; the Non-Arab Affairs Department, which is involved in "the penetration of foreign intelligence services and diplomatic missions" in Israel; and the Protective Security Department, responsible for protecting national representatives and assets.



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Italian court frees Priebke over SS Rome massacre

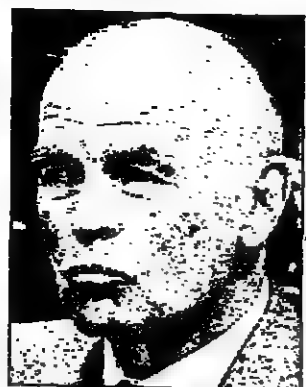
FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN military court yesterday convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment. Among those shot at the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome were 75 Jews and a 14-year-old boy.

In a two-to-one ruling, the three-judge panel recognised Priebke's responsibility in the massacre but accepted the defence argument that, because he was acting under orders, he could not have disobeyed without risking being executed.

His present age, good behaviour in prison and "minimal role" in the crime were also taken into account, judicial sources said. Under Italian law, the crime was covered by a statute of limitation, meaning that he had to be released. Priebke, dressed in a



Priebke: acting under orders, said defence

new suit and pink shirt, showed no emotion as the verdict was read to a hushed courtroom by Judge Agostino Quistelli.

"This is a victory for Italian justice that leaves me moved," said Velio Di Rezze, the defence lawyer. "What counts is the truth, and the truth is that Priebke was not responsible." He said that Priebke had reacted to the verdict with "a great feeling of gratitude towards Italian justice". The decision provoked an uproar

among relatives of the victims and concentration camp survivors gathered in a room adjoining the courtroom, who chanted "Fascists, Fascists", and "Shame, shame".

Priebke now faces an appeal by the victims' lawyers, and in Germany a magistrate for the Dortmund prosecutor's office said that Bonn would seek his extradition to try him for the massacre again.

Earlier, victims' relatives had shouted "Assassin, executioner, you must die", when the court retired to consider its verdict.

Tullia Zevi, the head of the Italian Jewish community, had urged the court to convict Priebke but said he should be placed under house arrest "as a humanitarian gesture" that would bolster Italy's image abroad.

During the three-month trial, the defence argued that the massacre was a legitimate reprisal for a day earlier of 33 German soldiers in Rome's Via Rasella by Italian Resistance fighters, and that Priebke had acted under orders he could not disobey. The killing of ten

Italians for every German was ordered by SS Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Kappler, but five additional people were shot in the caves.

"You have to put yourself in the Nazi frame of mind in which that reprisal was legitimate," Signor Di Rezze had argued.

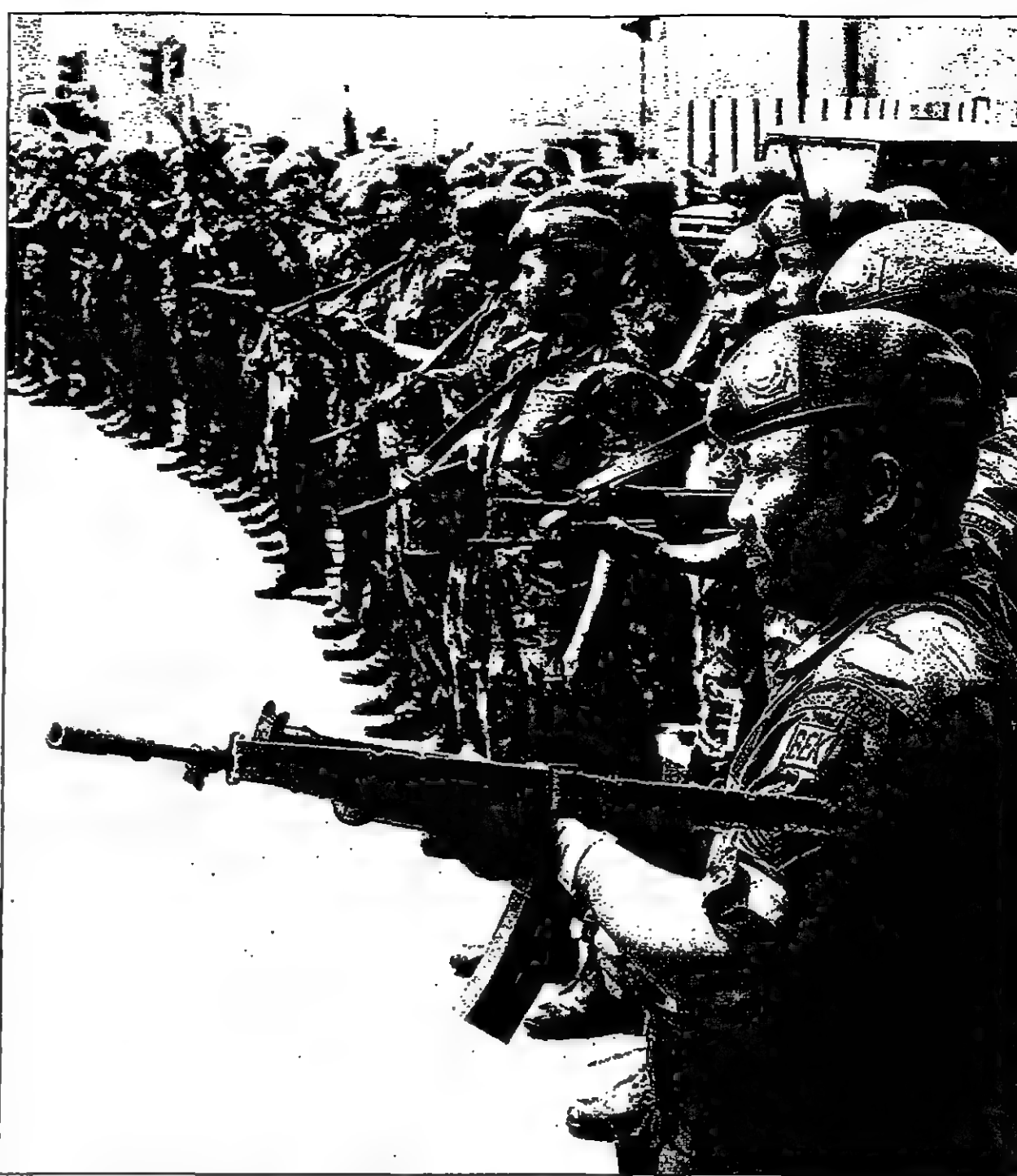
The prosecution contended that Priebke could have disobeyed orders as some others had, without repercussion.

"This was a vendetta, a blood feud typical of the Nazi regime with its mythology of blood, race and nation," said Judge Antonino Inteliano in his closing speech. "There was no military code in this action: everything was done in a hurry, in secret, and had to be hidden."

Priebke admitted shooting two people and marking off the names of others as they were led to be killed. The Nazis later blew up the caves to try to hide the deed.

Much of the prosecution case rested on evidence by SS Major Karl Hass, who testified that, when Priebke discovered that five extra people were on the death list he, with the complicity of Kappler, killed them, to leave no civilian witness to the carnage.

Priebke was arrested in Argentina in May last year and extradited to Italy in November after an American television interview in which he admitted his role in the massacre. He had lived for decades in an Andean resort town, running a delicatessen.



Marines face pro-Megawati demonstrators who gathered near the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday

'Political toothache' halts case in Jakarta

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A JUDGE'S apparent toothache saved the Indonesian Government yesterday from having to defend itself in court against allegations that it conspired to remove the country's main opposition leader as head of her party.

Riot police and troops scattered hundreds of supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri outside the Central Jakarta District Court, where she was taking the extraordinary step of suing a government that controls almost all aspects of political life and holds sway over some aspects of the judiciary.

Three judges were to have heard the case: one of them did not turn up, however, claiming to be in pain with his tooth. Opposition leaders called it a political toothache. A few days earlier, the judge had been well enough to hear a triple murder case. The case was adjourned until August 22.

Miss Megawati was voted out of the leadership of her Indonesian Democratic Party, which she has led since 1993, after a pro-government faction opposed her. Few people doubt there was official involvement in the outcome. Her party is one of only three that are officially recognised.

The interference has backfired: Miss Megawati is now the undisputed leader of the campaign for democracy, having been seen to force the Government into securing her removal as an official party leader. She remains a member of parliament and said yesterday: "I will carry on doing what is right."

Germans tried to silence me, says Holocaust author

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

THE American historian Daniel Goldhagen, whose book on the Holocaust has angered Germans, yesterday replied to his critics, saying they wanted to silence him because he had broken a long-standing taboo.

Dr Goldhagen, whose book *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, appears in German next week, said his arguments had been deliberately distorted in an attempt to dissuade the German public from reading it.

The book has caused an uproar in Germany, where critics have claimed that during the Hitler era the country was neither more nor less anti-Semitic than most other European countries. Dr Goldhagen maintains that ordinary Germans were not only anti-Semitic but participated willingly in killing Jews.

Given six pages by *Die Zeit*, the influential weekly, to put his case, Dr Goldhagen wrote yesterday: "This chorus of critics... treats my book as a pernicious tract that belongs on an index of banned books."

They react with a fury that recalls people who want to shut someone up because he dares to touch on a long-standing taboo."

Among the 16 critics he named are Rudolf Augstein, publisher of *Der Spiegel*, Frank Schirrmacher, publisher of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Hans Mommsen, a leading German historian, and Jörg von Uthmann, a former German diplomat in Israel, who is now a writer.

Die Zeit commented: "The vehemence of the reaction matches the stridency of the provocation."

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, also recently became embroiled in the controversy. He said guilt was neither collective nor inherited. However, he said he would wait until the German edition was published before commenting further.

Dr Goldhagen, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, said that he would take part in several public debates with leading German historians next month.

Woman strikes fear in Indonesia's rulers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

SMALL, plump, softly spoken and diffident — Megawati Sukarnoputri seems an unlikely challenger to Indonesia's strictly ordered political system. But she has rattled the Government as nobody else, with an intensifying campaign to replace President Suharto, which could mean more violence and an end to 30 years of stability and security.

Miss Megawati, 49, married three times and mother of two sons and a daughter, remembers living in the presidential palace as a child. What she does not remember, she said yesterday in an interview with *The Times*, is the massive bloodshed before her father, President Sukarno, was ousted. "When my father was thrown out of the presidency, many died. I was only a young girl and I did not know about this until later."

She lives with her husband, Taufiq Kiemas, a member of



Megawati: backed by the educated young

the House of Representatives, in a large white house in the southern suburbs of Jakarta. Since the rioting outside the headquarters of her Indonesian Democratic Party last weekend, she has not left

home. "My people will not let me go out. They say it is not safe for me. The situation is not stable."

As the daughter of the country's charismatic founding President, she is a natural symbol for change. She appeals mostly to the educated young who are the driving force for reform of a system that ensures perpetual rule for those in power. "We want equal rights with the rest of the free nations of the world," she said. "The new generation want the right to speak and write freely. They want to be able to express their hopes and opinions openly."

Indonesia was not democratic, she said: there was high-level corruption. There were labour problems, land problems, a worsening rich-poor divide, all of which had to be tackled democratically. She said change had usually come about in Indonesia violently — the old kingdoms always ended in bloodshed — but she hoped to lead a peaceful

transition. Change without chaos was possible: the transition had begun and could not be stopped. Her campaign would continue.

She said the constitution provided a "good mechanism" for electing a President, but had not been used. In 50 years of independence there had been only two Presidents — her late father and President Suharto — and the people were demanding the right to a democratically elected leader.

She acknowledged that under President Suharto the country had prospered economically and there had been peace and stability. But it was time to move on. There was a danger of violence if President Suharto died, because there was no experience in democratically choosing a new President. She said: "The older generation refuse to see what is going on."

She became the acknowledged leader of the pro-democracy movement in June after a government-backed faction

in her party deposed her and installed a new chairman — a move that confirmed intense official fear of her influence, which in turn projected her as a force to be reckoned with. She is probably the only person seriously able to challenge President Suharto, 75, who is likely to run for a seventh term in 1998 if his health holds out. He would be certain to win under the present system.

A crowd of about 10,000 rallied outside Miss Megawati's party headquarters last weekend. The gathering turned into a riot after helmeted police broke into the office and sealed it. Would-be rioters have been told they will be shot on sight.

Miss Megawati, elected party leader in 1993, has not been an especially impressive political performer. But she is the greatest force for change in more than a generation, and the Government's crackdown is proof of the threat she poses to the old order.

Wily Yeltsin cuts Lebed down to size

MORE than a month after General Aleksandr Lebed swept into the Kremlin promising to cure Russia's ills and lead it into the next century, the fortunes of the gruff soldier have begun to dim.

In the space of only six weeks, the former paratrooper and self-styled heir-in-waiting to the Kremlin leadership has discovered that his battlefield skills are of little use in the cut-throat world of Moscow politics. Undermined by President Yeltsin and outmanoeuvred by his rivals, the once-confident, and at times boastful, political hopeful has grown strangely silent.

Shortly after his appointment as secretary of the presidential security council, General Lebed served notice that he planned not only to tackle relevant issues, such as

Six weeks after the Afghan war veteran swept into the Kremlin with the swagger of a presidential heir-in-waiting, he has been outmanoeuvred by his patron, Richard Beeston writes in Moscow

military reform and the conflict in Chechnya, but also problems relating to religion, culture, economy and crime. But since installing himself in the Kremlin, he has so far failed to make an impact on any aspect of policy.

The most glaring example of his shortcomings has been felt in Chechnya, where he had promised to implement a long-awaited peace plan to demilitarise the war-torn republic. Instead, a pre-election ceasefire has been shattered by a bloody new round of

fighting, and plans for a Lebed peace mission to the region have now been postponed indefinitely.

"Lebed has been completely discredited over Chechnya," said Andrei Piontovskiy, the head of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Moscow. "It is clear now that he only criticised the war as a means to pursue his rivalry with [former Defence Minister General Pavel] Grachev. Now that Grachev has been removed and the atrocities continue, Lebed sounds like all the

others in government." Another area where the Afghan War veteran was expected to use his military expertise was in the field of army reform, in particular, efforts to convert the demoralised and ill-disciplined conscript force of two million into a smaller and more professional organisation by the turn of the century.

Although General Lebed succeeded in having his nomination, General Igor Rodionov, appointed as Defence Minister, the victory was undermined by a classic piece of Yeltsin power-balancing. Last week the Russian leader ordered the creation of a defence council headed by Yuri Baturin, the Kremlin's former security chief, to tackle the reform issue. Instead of a leading role in the council's

affairs, General Lebed now finds himself as only one voice on an 18-member body.

As for the economy, his boasts that he planned to take a direct hand in administering the country's economic policies have been neutralised by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Anatoli Chubais, the new Kremlin Chief of Staff.

The consensus among Russian analysts and foreign diplomats in Moscow is that General Lebed has been manipulated by President Yeltsin. After the first round of voting in the presidential elections on June 16, the Russian leader courted the general for his 11 million voters, but since winning re-election in the second round on July 3 the Kremlin chief has neutralised General Lebed as a political force.

New twist put on the Bermuda Triangle

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, where scores of ships and planes are said to have disappeared, may have been solved by a retired Australian academic.

Richard Sylvester, a former associate professor in the department of civil engineering at the University of Western Australia, claims vortices, or whirlpools, are the reason for so many vessels and aircraft vanishing without trace in the western Atlantic between Bermuda and Florida. Now he has written a book on his theory, which he says came to him two years ago in a "brainwave" after watching a television programme about the zone.

In *The Bermuda Triangle — Mystery No More*, Mr Sylvester, who studied sea and wave action as a coastal engineer, says that a vortex in the air could create draughts strong enough to pull a plane down to the sea, where the wind generates a current in the water, creating another vortex which in turn sucks the plane to the seabed.

This might also account for the absence of any kind of evidence on the seabed. When the vortex moves through the sea it acts like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up huge amounts of sand, rock and silt, which spin around in suspension. When the whirlpool moves on, the silt settles on the floor of the ocean, where it can bury any debris up to 10ft deep, making it virtually undetectable.

Macho Latin bulls see off Europe's wimps

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HARD on the heels of "mad cow" disease, another bovine affliction has sent a shiver of panic through aficionados of the bullfight: weedy bull syndrome.

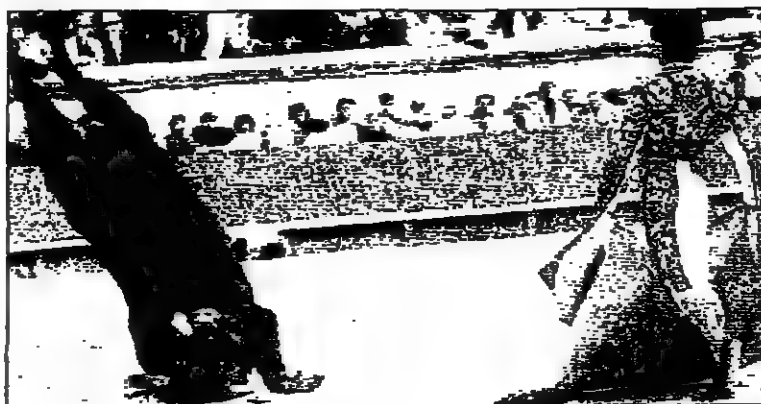
Many European bulls bred for the ring have become enfeebled, making them poor foes for even the meekest matador. Their frailty is due to a combination of wet weather, inbreeding and over-feeding, according to a report published in France yesterday.

From Arles in southern France to Seville in Spain, bulls are showing a tendency to collapse under their own weight before the first *olé* has sounded. Bullfight organisers say the weakness appears to be linked to genetic problems and obesity. Bullfight fans have come to expect

ever larger bulls, with many weighing more than half a tonne. In the weeks before a fight, breeders tended to fatten up their animals, but many bulls lack the strength to carry the sudden extra poundage and often keel over without much of a fight.

"They are artificially fed with fattening food, when they usually eat only wild grass," Hubert Yonnet, a bull-breeder from the Carnargue, told the French magazine *Événement du Jeudi*. Some breeders also send bulls to the ring before they have reached full five-year maturity. Inbreeding is also a problem; at least 70 per cent of Spanish fighting bulls are descended from the champion Andalusian bull, Domecq.

This year's crop of bulls is particu-



A frail bull spins over, bringing a clownish touch to the Nîmes arena

larly dodderly, with the wet, cold weather leaving many stiff in the joints, bronchial and oddly pacific. The magazine said enthusiasts are increasingly turning to South America, where the bulls are leaner and meaner. Often raised on large farms where they must travel great distances for food and water, the South

American bulls apparently grow smaller horns but bigger muscles. Once bulls from across the Atlantic were sneered at as lesser creatures, but now French and Spanish bullfighters are having to import South American breeding bulls in order, as one commentator put it, "to put the bravery back in our bulls".

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March of the tartan-skirted army

Authoritative and assertive, Scottish women seem to be taking over everywhere. Giles Coren finds out why

IT BEGINS with Lorraine Kelly bounding onto GMTV at 6am and ends with Kirsty Wark signing off on *Newsnight* at 11.15pm. Unless, of course, it is one of those days when Lesley Riddoch takes *The Midday Hour* into the small hours. In between, every day, on television and radio, in the pages of the national press and in the gossip columns, the ubiquity of Scottish women testifies to their recent, and total, conquest of the world.

There is Sheena MacDonald, presenter of *House to House*, Tracey MacLeod, late of *The Late Show*, Kirsty Young on *The Holiday Show* and Muriel Gray, whose presentation of *The Tube* launched the first series back in the early Eighties.

There are frothier warriors too, such as Carol Smiley, the model who has graduated from glamorous *Wheel of Fortune* hostess to become a presenter on *Hearts of Gold*, and models Honor Fraser and Stella Tennant, more Belgravia than *Braveheart*, but members of the same tartan army.

Genista McIntosh, the newly appointed and first female chief executive of the Royal Opera House, Rona Cameron of *Gaytime* TV... the list seems endless.

Kirsty Young, the youngest of the serious wing of the Scot Pack at 27, is only beginning to appreciate the significance of the revolution: "It hadn't really occurred to me that we were taking over the world," she says modestly. "But then it isn't so apparent when you are on the inside. It may be down to an artificial redressing of the balance. In that it has become easier to get on in television both as a woman and as someone with a regional accent, and we nicely fulfil both clauses. By being far enough away to be almost foreign, we may also have a sort of exotic quality — we are not northerners as such, or Midlandsers."

There is clearly some truth in this. "Change doesn't come about organically, but because it suddenly becomes obvious that the situation is absurd," says Lesley Riddoch, who is also associate editor of *The Scotsman* and a



The Scot pack, anti-clockwise from left, top model Stella Tennant, *Newsnight*'s Kirsty Wark, Kirsty Young, Muriel Gray and GMTV's Lorraine Kelly

regular speaker on Channel 4's *People's Parliament*. "To employ a Scotsman is to kill two birds with one stone. If you'll pardon the pun. And the bosses can say to themselves, 'Haven't we done well?'"

"I always thought the number of Irish women on television was down to their accents being classless and unpardonable — perhaps, to English ears, the same goes for the Scots accent. It is also

supposed to be earnest, and believable, as if we have thought things through."

As to why it is the women, rather than the men, who are ubiquitous, there are different theories. "In terms of broadcasting, Scotsmen are very taciturn," says Ms Riddoch. "It is said that women develop communication skills earlier than men, and perhaps that is even more the case in a macho environment like Scotland. So

many of our decision-makers are men, and I sometimes think that women are connecting up the thoughts of the men, and presenting them. In a macho society, where men don't like speaking, women are pushed into it."

Kirsty Young has another idea. "It might be that we are slightly better looking! Scottish men are everywhere in politics, and as women we avoid that association with the lumpy, ill-fitting suits of

Westminster. We are also better at being bossy, and tend to get very stern when we lose our tempers, which producers are very keen on. It is the practice we get keeping our men in line!"

"It is also more unusual — and therefore more interesting — to see a woman in a dark suit giving someone a hard time, than a man. There is still a sort of novelty value attached."

Lorraine Kelly sees social advan-

tages in being Scottish: "It can be difficult to establish a rapport with a Hollywood star who is doing 110 other interviews. But as soon as they see I am Scottish they always turn out to have an Auntie Fanny in Skye, or be interested in golf or something. Kirk Douglas kept asking me to say things because he liked the accent, and Bette Midler grilled me about where to visit when she was in Scotland. It helps you to stand out."

Or rather, at GMTV, to fit in. "There is definitely a Scottish mafia here," says Ms Kelly. "Maybe it's because we are all a bit sassy, a bit sparky, but also warm. It's difficult to explain..."

They are also tough, and involved in the gritty end, by and large, of the business. That is because there is no tradition of light entertainment in Scotland," says Kirsty Young. "What Scottish television makes for itself is news and current affairs programmes, so that whatever we do, ultimately that will always be where our grounding lies."

The result is a certain sternness. "Scottish women on television tend not to be coquettish or flirty. It could be genetic, it could come from being taught by blue-stocking schoolmistresses of the Miss Jean Brodie type. It could be something in the water. Or the haggis."

Kirsty Wark, who is held up by the younger generation as one of the pioneers, has also seen a mafia emerging. "*Newsnight* is overrun with Scots. I can see at least four from here. Two women, two men. Maybe it's because we are brought up to be tough and assertive, and have to wear all that wode."

"The smallness of BBC Scotland makes the training very rigorous, and the lack of money means a lot of airtime to fill with unprepared talk. After a few years of that you form some pretty strong opinions."

They are certainly more politicised than their southern counterparts, and most have chosen to remain in Scotland despite the allure of London. "People like Ruth Wishart, Sheena MacDonald, Muriel and myself are fiercely committed to a separate parliament for Scotland," says Lesley Riddoch.

None admit to being part of a defined coterie. "We are so mobile," says Ms Riddoch, "that we don't even see our partners that much, let alone each other," but they do bump into each other occasionally on the Shuttle.

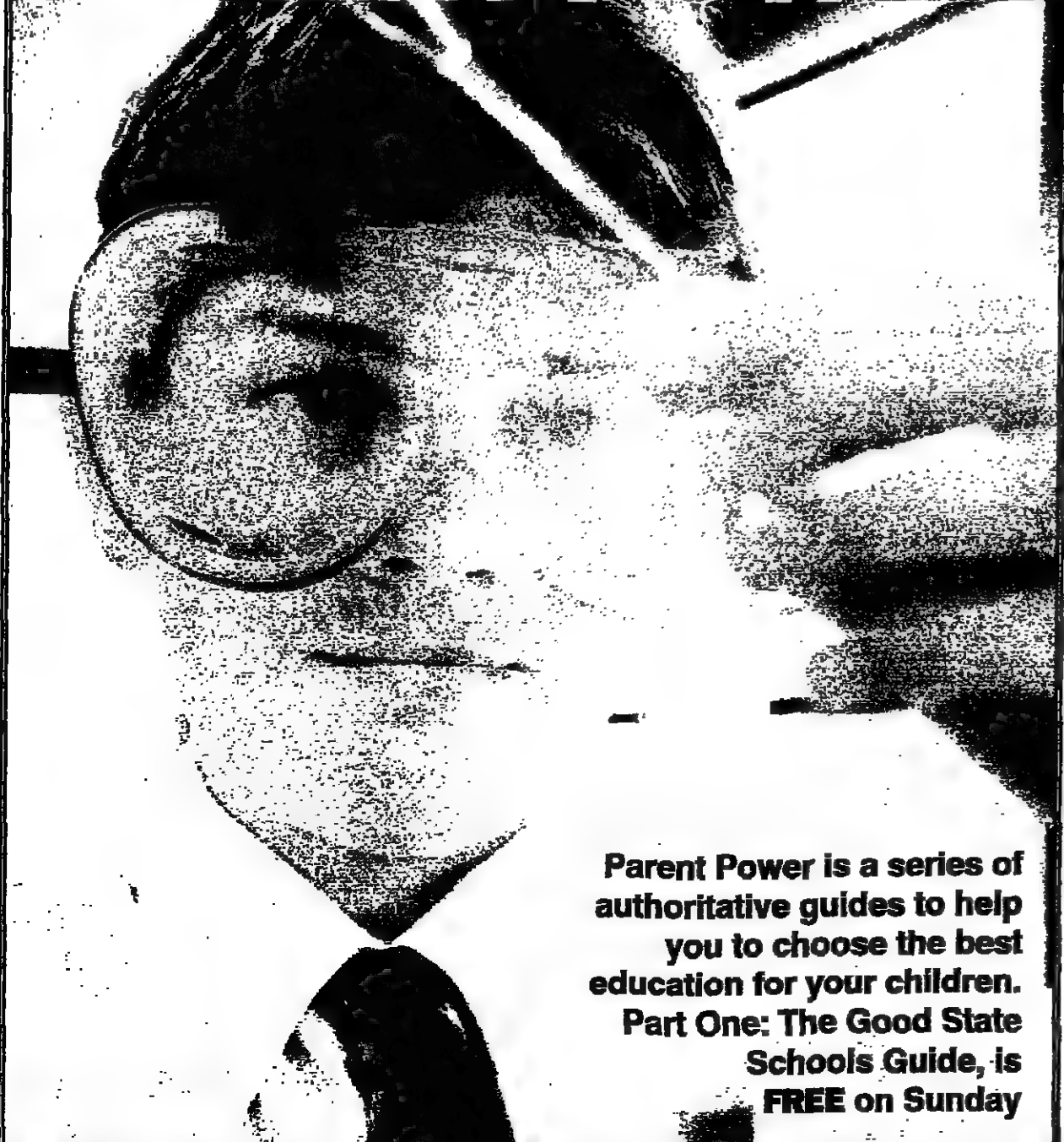
"Scotland is a tiny little pool of people," says Kirsty Young. "And the media circle is not huge. I know Kirsty and Muriel, and I have met Lesley a few times. But we don't all sit around together on Friday nights clinking champagne glasses saying, 'Congratulations lassies we've got it all sewn up!'"

Nor, though, do they fear for the future — despite the notorious whim of media controllers whose image of the ideal employee waits with fashion.

"I think we are too entrenched now," says Lorraine Kelly. "Can you imagine someone trying to get rid of us? What man would want to try to do that?"

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Jason Cowley on a campaigner who threatens to return his MBE

The history of the Gulf Support Group is the history of an obsession. Established in a spirit of defiance after some 3,000 British citizens were taken hostage following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait six years ago today, the group is now mired in debt and bitterness.

It survives only through the stubborn determination of its founder, the Coventry businessman Stephen Brookes. But even he is losing faith: he threatens to return his MBE — awarded for humanitarian work on behalf of the hostages — in protest at what he perceives to be a lack of government interest in their plight. Once a source of pride, his medal now serves as a reminder of what has gone wrong.

It all began for Mr Brookes and his wife Josie when they received a phone call from their closest friend, Wen Li. Her husband Eric Watson, best man at their wedding, had been taken hostage after his plane was intercepted on a refuelling stop in Kuwait.

"The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had been headline news for several days, but now it hit us between the eyes," wrote Josie Brookes in her book about the crisis, *The Human Shield*. "We were so angry, so bitter, so frustrated at the lack of news, we were galvanised into action."

What they were then not to know was just how much their involvement with the hostages was to cost them, not just in financial terms but personally. As Mr Brookes, 49, became increasingly caught up in his quest to free the hostages and then later to gain compensation for them, so the distinction between his private and public self dissolved.

"The whole thing has been a disaster for us," he says. "We have lived with nothing but this crisis for the past six years. Before this started, we were just a middle-of-the-road professional couple. [Mr Brookes worked in sales and marketing for an engineering company]. But now we are virtually second-degree hostages of Iraq."

After struggling to maintain a normal relationship, Stephen and Josie finally divorced last year. "We allowed the pressure of the campaign to destroy our marriage. I was working from home and it meant that we had no respite from everything that was

Why I am still a hostage to the Gulf War



Stephen and Josie Brookes: a high price to pay

going on. We had no one else to turn to." Although they are now living together again, they have no plans to remarry. Money remains an endless difficulty: only last week their telephone was disconnected because they were unable to pay the bill. Mr Brookes says: "We have put something like £60,000 of our own money into the group; we have been to hell and back — and still there is no sign of a resolution."

The former hostage James Ure has met Mr Brookes on several occasions over the past six years. "Stephen is consumed by a sense of wrong," he says. "But I sometimes wonder if people realise how much he himself has suffered. The campaign has gone beyond the Gulf War now, beyond everything."

It was not always like this. When the Gulf Support Group was set up it had the backing of MPs, big business and many volunteers, and the Government helped to fund a London office. The Gulf Support Trust was also created to handle donations and to help

pay for the enormous expense of running a support group. But just as many of the hostages have suffered in silence, so Mr Brookes has watched interest in his campaign dissipate.

The London office was closed early in 1991, donations ceased around the same time and the Government withdrew after making £147,000 available to establish trauma centres for the hostages at two London hospitals.

"Once the hostages got off the plane most people assumed that the group had served its purpose," Mr Brookes says. "Of course, the real work was only just beginning. After the initial euphoria, the hostages had to face the reality of unemployment, post-traumatic stress and life on social security."

"When the Iraqis invaded, these people lost their homes and their businesses; women were raped. It's not hard to see why they have struggled to cope, especially when they haven't had the necessary counselling." He says that in the past five years, 17 of the

hostages have died from "stress-related illnesses", there have been several suicides and many have succumbed to alcoholism as they wrestle with debt and loneliness.

Not a month passes but he receives a letter from one of the hostages "desperate for help and advice". Many seem compelled endlessly to recount the story of their incarceration.

He also receives letters from MPs orchestrating campaigns on behalf of constituents. In a letter to the Foreign Secretary, Iain Sproat, the Heritage Minister, described how one of his constituents had had his life ruined by his experience as a hostage: "The farmers, struck disastrously by the consequences of BSE, are to be compensated. Yet the Foreign Office refuses to help these British nationals whose lives have been ruined through no fault of their own. My constituent has been driven to despair over this."

James Ure was working as a chef at Baghdad Airport when he was taken hostage. Since returning to Britain he has suffered from depression and ill health. Now 60, he is scratching a living from odd jobs after being evicted from his house earlier this year. "Like many of the hostages, I came back to no job and no prospects. My marriage has broken up and if it wasn't for Stephen's work, I don't think I would have made it."

Mr Brookes says that interest in frozen Iraqi assets in Britain may hold the key to the compensation problem. "My research suggests that Iraq has assets of £748 million tied up in British banks. The interest alone could be used to help the hostages." The response of the Foreign Office is categorical: "Security Council resolutions do not allow the interest on Iraqi funds held in UK banks to be taken to meet claims of UK nationals."

That is no help to Mr Brookes, who has the forlorn look of one who feels that a great injustice has been committed. Although he insists that his life will eventually return to normal, there is, in truth, nothing but doubt in his expressions of confidence.

His obsession must surely now seem like a kind of imprisonment. There is no possibility of release. He has come too far.

Fighting for the unborn child

The founder of Life, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is against IVF treatment — but he is appalled by the destruction of embryos

The Life movement is neither fashionable nor popular. Its founder, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is a big man of 67 with a ruddy face, a loudly striped shirt and an air of quiet confidence. He is a self-proclaimed "outsider" and has been on the door of 10 Downing Street on Wednesday, fruitlessly, there was to be no reprieve for the 3,000 frozen embryos now being disposed of at fertility clinics.

The embryos are microscopic clusters of cells, the size of a typewritten full stop. Their humanity is debatable, and the whole issue is clouded by sentiment and misapprehension, but this week the reasoning public had to question why, under an arbitrary five-year rule, the embryos, once so yearned for by infertile couples, are now being discarded.

Another reminder of how far science has advanced beyond our ability to cope with the resulting human and social chaos.

John Joseph Scarisbrick, born in suburban London, was a fifth child; with three older sisters and a brother who had Down's syndrome. "So I think I was lucky not to be conceived post-1967. My mother, who was 43 with a severely disabled husband [he died when Jack was five] plus a Down's child and three other children, would have been pressurised not to proceed with the pregnancy."

Jack grew up inveterately happy. After two years in the RAF "treated like vermin by the NCOs" he arrived at Christ's College Cambridge, heard the porter call him "sir" and had six happy years there. He then embarked on 15 happy years teaching at Queen Mary College, followed by 25 happy years as professor of history at exciting new Warwick University [where Germaine Greer was writing her *Female Eunuch* and scaring the pants off him]. He met "a gorgeous girl" named Nuala, they produced two daughters and he wrote two books (on Henry VIII and the Reformation) and lives to this day in a

Victorian villa with a magnificent walled garden "where you might be miles from the turn of modern life".

Modern life encroached in 1970. The professor, a new father, was incensed by David Steel's "intellectually contemptible" Abortion Bill arguments that the child in the womb was morally inferior and disposable because "dependent". "Dependence implies duties on the person dependent on. If dependence denotes disposability, then my daughter was disposable too." He founded Life, which has fought abortion, IVF treatment and embryo experiments ever since.

Life was to have no religious affiliation, he insisted, but yes, he is a Roman Catholic. "But my wife gets very angry when people say 'you're doing this because your husband's a Catholic'."

They took the absolutist stance that the destruction of the child in the womb is always wrong. But they also realised "it wasn't enough to say 'thou shalt not'. Not every pregnancy is wanted, even in a happy marriage. We needed to provide a helpline like the Samaritans, and a pregnancy care service". They have 200 branches run by volunteers, and get 100,000 calls a year.

The professor admires the American right-to-life movement for making it a central political issue "which we have not succeeded in doing". What about the US pro-life movement's propensity for aggressive, murderous, anti-life activity?

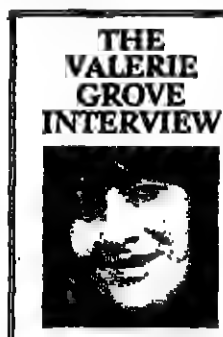
"Two or three weirdo extremists out of tens of thou-

sands," he says. "We have the occasional oddball join us but they don't stay because Life is hard work. Our counsellors undergo rigorous training and selection. And they have to test urine samples. That sorts them out."

There is no love lost between the professor and the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority. Will the two sides ever agree on the question of when life begins?

The HEFA decided on 14 days (when the primitive streak, which becomes the spinal cord, appears).

"If you deny that life begins with the fusion of sperm with ovum, the big bang, an explosion of energy, when does it begin? Professor Robert Edwards has written categorically that life begins at fertilisation. The former Archbishop John Habgood espoused an absurd agnosticism: 'It has no beginning, it is a process.' Wonderful Anglican waffle."



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

The analogy I use is from cricket," says the professor, a cricket fanatic. "When does a cricket match begin? When the umpire says 'play'. Before that, you have two teams. If you were to say to the bowler at the end of the third over, 'sorry, we're not sure this match has begun at all yet, the bowler would be very surprised.'"

The word fetus is a euphemism for unborn child. A gynaecologist examining a pregnant woman does not say "and how is your fetus today?"

Professor Scarisbrick believes that the entire sexual

revolution has diminished women. Women are expected to be sexually available; willing to have an abortion if inconveniently pregnant; ready to produce a baby when required, and to abort any defective foetus. "And if she can't produce she is a failure, or must undergo a painful, expensive procedure with a 90 per cent failure rate."

Meanwhile male and female infertility increase. The womb is a dark and chemically complex organ. Sperm counts plummet. "And you can't reverse the process like turning on a tap."

Life has opened its own obstetric clinic in Liverpool with an alternative to IVF, taking the ripe egg from the blocked tube and placing it at the top of the uterus. "We haven't had a pregnancy yet — but we've had four natural pregnancies." They also run the first baby hospice, Zoe's Place, for newborn disabled children. "It's not enough for us to say 'Don't kill this baby'; we must offer alternatives."

Professor Scarisbrick appealed to postpone the implementation of the five-year law, to allow prospective adoptive couples to take the embryos. "Twenty five couples have approached us since last Thursday. We can transfer the embryos to wombs. It will cost the nation nothing."

The irony is that the IVF clinics do not want to destroy the embryos; Professor Ian Craft calls the rule a noose around their necks.

"So we all see these cauldrons on television, steaming away in liquid nitrogen," Professor Scarisbrick says. "There are 60,000 in deep freezers; whose sell-by date is coming up. It is a ghastly dilemma, entirely man-made. We are trying to rescue something from the wreckage."

"So many things in our lifetime are unimaginable and unforeseen. People thought it was all about little Louise Brown, and Patrick Steptoe surrounded by babies, gossling over the real outcome. It will not look good in the record that on August 1, 1996, 3,000 human beings were condemned to death."

Atlanta needs a winning streak

ONLY two days of the Olympic Games to go, and not yet a single streaker. There have been Michael Johnson's golden running shoes, Armenian athletes chasing a local prostitute down the street — the speed she went, we could have used her in the British team — and the temporary hijack of the Princess Royal's car by

Quentin Letts is hoping for a flash of inspiration at the Olympic Games

our gold medalists Redgrave and Pinsent. But not a single, measly streak.

In Britain it has been a summer sans culottes. There was the plump-bottomed streaker at Wimbledon, a

featherless birdie at the Open, and the naked man who this week interrupted the Webster's World Darts Match-play, even as the sharp-pointed arrows were flying. Afterwards he had a biting

walk home down Blackpool's promenade with nothing to shield him from the stiff sea breeze. Then, last weekend, two men stripped off in front of the Queen during the Cartier polo at Windsor. Her Majesty was amused.

In America, however, streaking is almost unknown, a sorry state of affairs that surely says something about the odd, almost perverted prudishness in this land of free expression and lurid sexual lowlife. American magazines are often absurdly sensitive about ticklish advertisements for products such as bras and deodorants, ads which are carried without a moment's thought by European titles. On the beaches of the Hamptons, the fashionable weekend enclave on New York's Long Island, bikini tops are very much kept on, even though everyone is happy to tune in to the Robin Byrd midnight striptease show on the local cable television service.

AMERICA does have the weather for streaking: Atlanta is a remarkably balmy. The people certainly have the *joie de vivre*, the eye for self-promotion, and many have the basic equipment. Sure, there are a lot of fannies, but there are also countless keep-fit fanatics who would look swell in their birthday suits.

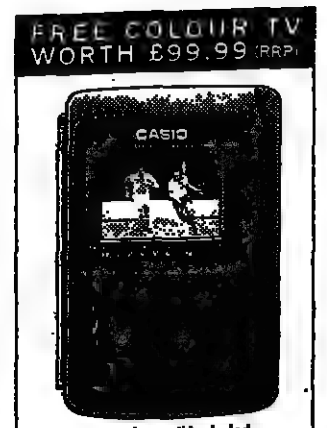
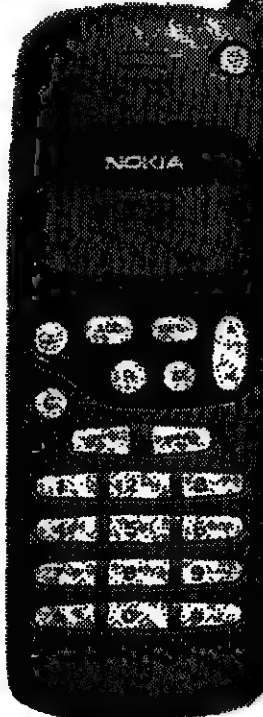
Joyce Brothers, a New York psychologist, believes it is simply that America has fallen out of the streaking fashion. "We did have streaking in the Seventies on the college campuses," she recalled, almost wistfully, "and someone once streaked behind David Niven at the Academy Awards." Dr Brothers interprets streaking as a way of stating one's independence, of putting other people down, and telling them that they are stuffy and uptight. "Perhaps that's why you Brits are at it all the time," she said.

A streaker would have provided a valuable service here. Those of us in the press tent would have scurried after the culprit in search of vital statistics and a few comments rather than writing about all the disorganisation and, of course, the bomb.

What the Atlanta Games needs is a damned good streak. There are still two days left, so on yer marks, get set, and get 'em off.

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EDUCATION

On course for better things

David Tytler looks at teenagers who volunteer to go back to school in the summer holidays

Sometime next week a rocket is due to be launched from the heart of London, designed not by the world's leading space scientists, but as part of an ambitious scheme of summer courses for inner-city teenagers.

The Summer University, organised by Tower Hamlets council, opened its doors this week to the first of thousands of students voluntarily giving up their holidays to improve their existing skills and gain new ones. The rocket launch is part of a science course at St Paul's Way School, attended by ten students. Elsewhere in the building, teenagers are learning to play soft ball, paint on silk or improve their writing skills.

Frances Knowles, manager of community education at St Paul's Way, says that last year's pilot scheme was a resounding success, with 2,700 students on courses during the four-week period. Not all would have completed the subjects they had signed up for, but there is no doubting either the enthusiasm and commitment of the tutors or that of the students.

One of the striking aspects of the scheme is the "peer motivators" idea: teenagers with an interest in youth work are trained to act as assistants, talking directly to the students, ensuring they are in the right place at the right time, and making sure that they are having fun and feel the courses are worthwhile.

Ms Knowles says: "The 'motivators' are attached to classes and one attends every activity. They talk to students to ensure that they are getting what they want and are having fun. The idea is that they will move on into youth-work training. They will get an assessment from us, stating what they have been taught, the skills they have achieved and how well they have used them. They are very carefully selected, but if they are not any good, they will be weeded out."

The teenage assistants are paid £7.50 a session and work only when they are required. David Holloway, one of the two Summer University directors, says: "In all aspects of youth work, drug and sex education, for example, we are increasingly



Summer University students: "We aim for a programme that is fun, based around sports, music and the arts, with academic and vocational courses"

using young people to talk to other young people as the most effective way of getting the message across."

Mr Holloway has been involved in summer projects for teenagers for five years. "There have been summer programmes in the past, but they have tended to be based around youth clubs, with outings and some projects — a very small menu. We aim for a balanced programme that is fun, based around sports, music and the arts, with some residential courses, together with academic and vocational courses. The students sign up to a bit of each."

"Many are reluctant at first, but once they start they want to get on. We use art and music and the Internet as a way into the more structured learning. We want to get them actively involved and enthusiastic about their learning."

"We have fun on the Internet, but the students soon learn that to do everything they want they have to get the technical skills. To learn about maths and science."

Mr Holloway, a graduate who

dropped out of school at 13, but returned to higher education, adds that he also believes in the importance of structured education: the three Rs and whole-class teaching. He estimates that about 2,000 students will leave this year's courses with worthwhile experience. Some

For the teenagers of Tower Hamlets, the alternatives too often are to stay in bed or walk the streets

will have certificates from sporting bodies and all who have completed courses successfully will be given certificates for their National Record of Achievement.

This year's courses are based on last year's pilot scheme and a survey

of 14 to 16-year-olds in the borough. This showed that 93 per cent of those who replied wanted help with GCSE and A-level courses, 64 per cent expressed a keen interest in modern languages and around 45 per cent wanted courses in fashion and sport. To meet these preferences, the Summer University is offering study skills in humanities, science, maths and computers and courses in French, German and Spanish.

All the courses are offered free, with minimal charges for water-sports and some travel costs for the residential courses. Two weeks in Berlin, for example, for 20 language students will cost £25 each plus spending money. The project is supported by Tower Hamlets Council and various European agencies, but has been guaranteed for three years by a £185,000 grant from the National Lottery.

One of the uncertainties is how many students will turn up. On Monday, the first day of the course, the attendance was about 75 per cent, which Mr Holloway describes as

good. Some will drop out, but others will join in, so there is likely to be an overall gain.

The Tower Hamlets team have been working with Birmingham City Council, which also opened its University of the First Age this week, an idea of its chief education officer, Tim Brighouse.

In Birmingham, about 300 pupils aged 11 to 12 will take part in week-long projects in subjects including maths, science, technology, French, Spanish and Urdu. It is intended that by 2001, all secondary school pupils in Birmingham will belong to two linked institutions, their mainstream school and the University of the First Age, which will offer intensive, mixed age courses.

Both schemes are aimed at helping children and young people to get the best out of their schooling, to become actively involved in learning and, above all, to enjoy it. For the teenagers of Tower Hamlets, the alternatives, only too often, are to stay in bed or aimlessly walk the streets.

How we see, hear and feel words

Methods of teaching dyslexics to read can be used for every child

Growing numbers of teachers are adopting a traditional method of teaching reading which is based on a multi-sensory system devised to help dyslexic children. Pupils taught in this way in a school in Wandsworth, south London, have reading ages of six months to a year in advance of their chronological age.

The system, devised at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in the early 1980s, harks back to some of the approaches of the 1930s. More than 500 teachers from across Britain have studied the method at Hornsby House School, founded by Dr Beve Hornsby, the psychologist and speech therapist.

Professor Colin Terrell, an educational psychologist at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, which established a year-long distance learning course with Hornsby House, is convinced that the traditional methods are successful in raising standards. "They reinforce young children's understanding that words are made up of individual sounds. Having grasped that fact, they are then able to decode new words when they see them," Professor Terrell says.

Dr Hornsby devised a system based on phonics, learning individual constituent sounds of words, which is designed to follow closely the patterns of speech development. Children learn the sound of each letter before linking the letters to build up words. And as it is a multisensory approach involving the aural, visual and tactile senses, pupils hear, see and feel the words.

For example, after hearing the teacher pronounce the letters CAT and then the word cat, they repeat what they hear. They then write the letters, read what they have written and finally close their eyes and trace the word in the air to memorise it. Pupils gradually move on

to more difficult combinations of letters, such as SH as in sheep, and play word games to recognise sounds. Given suffixes such as AP or OUGHT they expand their vocabulary by adding letters to form words like cap and map or fought and sought.

This approach, however, is not only about teaching reading. For as pupils write words, they learn to spell them. "Reading, writing and spelling are inter-related activities. Our aim is to equip pupils to master written English," Professor Terrell says.

Hornsby House School was established to prove that the multisensory approach works. The school has also shown that dyslexic pupils can be successfully

taught alongside normal pupils using this method.

"Some 10 per cent of pupils are thought to be dyslexic," Professor Terrell says. "This way we can keep them in normal classes instead of labelling them as having special needs."

Other beneficiaries, according to Hornsby House, are eight to ten-year-olds who had failed to learn to read properly when taught by modern methods in infancy. After switching to multisensory teaching, with its traditional phonics, they catch up fast.

The distance-learning course for practising teachers has attracted trainees mainly from British schools, but groups in Malta, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Barbados and Cyprus are also showing interest. The course comprises 30 hours of practical tuition, and observation sessions.

After the initial emphasis on in-service training, Professor Terrell is developing a Master of Education course at Cheltenham and Gloucester College for teachers of special needs children. It begins this autumn and the hope is that multisensory teaching will be introduced for all students entering teacher training.

IOLA SMITH

Susan Elkin explains how boarding school pupils from overseas are provided with British 'parents'

The old all-encompassing expression "parents and guardians" takes on a whole new meaning in boarding education. If you are, say, a Japanese or Taiwanese pupil in an English boarding school, your parents are not exactly on hand to stay with during half-term and holidays, visit you at weekends or drop in at school events.

It could be pretty bleak. The reason it is not is that almost every overseas boarding student is carefully assigned to a British-based couple and their family who act as on-the-spot guardians.

Yumiko Terai, 17, is a year-ten GCSE pupil at St James and the Abbey School at Malvern in Hereford and Worcester. She is about as far from her home, near Osaka in Japan, as she could be, but her British guardians live only a few miles away at Upton.

"I'm very happy with them," says Yumiko. "I get on really well with the youngest daughter who is about my age. I often go out with her and her friends."

So how are families who want to

A long way from home, but close to the family

be guardians successfully teamed up with those who need them? If the family has friends or relations in Britain they probably make their own arrangements. But most parents who choose to send their children abroad for what they clearly regard as the best education, have no international contacts. Guardian-ship partnerships have therefore to be set up by the schools and/or companies, such as Gabbitts Educational Consultants.

St James and the Abbey, a girls' school with 200 pupils of whom about 5 per cent are currently from Japan, advertises locally for guardians. "Parish magazines and local newspapers are a good way of reaching the right people," says the headmistress, Elizabeth Mullenger.

"We also use staff networking. Most of our guardians live close by, so they can pop in very readily."

Once a potential guardian has emerged, someone from St James visits the home "to see if the atmosphere is relaxed enough to absorb an overseas child". Miss Mullenger works closely with Sarah Studdert Kennedy, head of guardianship at Gabbitts, who has about 120 overseas students in guardianship and seems to know each one and every guardian personally.

Elspeth Patterson — not her real name because she asked for anonymity — was selected by Gabbitts. She and her husband, who have two children of their own, have been guardians for eight years. They are in the process of seeing four mem-

bers of one Taiwanese family through English boarding education. Girls of 16 and 15 are at senior schools while their nine-year-old brother has recently started prep school. An older sister is at Sheffield University and although, now that she's of age, the Pattersons are no longer technically her guardians, she keeps in touch and is still very much part of the family.

"We take them to the airport and see them off when they go home," says Mrs Patterson. "We also sort out school uniform and bring them home for short breaks."

There is another benefit too. Ayo Misawa, 17, who is studying art, technology and Japanese for A level at St James and the Abbey, comes from Tokyo. As well as valuing the

acquisition of some quasi siblings — she's the only child — she finds academic advantage in being part of her guardians' family. "They know how to help me with my A levels because they're British and understand the system in a way my parents never could," she says.

Guardianship is also an unsung aspect of positive international networking and multi-cultural awareness: "We've loved learning so much about eastern culture and getting to know these Taiwanese children really well as they've got older. It's an extraordinarily positive experience," says Mrs Patterson.

That dedication and commitment, unswayed by financial gain, is evidently crucial. As Miss Mullenger says: "It is essential that people don't go into guardianship for money. That's not the way to attract the best people."

That is why couples such as the Pattersons receive only their expenses and a tiny allowance. The rewards apparently lie in the satisfaction of doing a worthwhile job well.

Hands off our school!

Mohammed Mehmet on why education associations don't work

On May 9, I read in *The Times* that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was "minded" to transfer the Langham School, of which I am chair of the governors, to an education association (EA).

It was a devastating blow to Langham, a comprehensive school serving a multicultural area in Tottenham, north London. An EA is a government-appointed group of business and education experts with a mission to kill or cure a failing school. It has been used only once before, when it recommended closing Hackney Downs School last year.

Two months later Mrs Shephard changed her mind about Langham, commending the governors for their sense of purpose and direction, and acknowledging the many improvements since 1995.

Pupils had been failed by the school for years. It was the pressure from Ofsted, the

school inspection agency, and in February 1995 its judgment that the school was failing, which gave the impetus for a root-and-branch programme of change. The governing body — many of us new governors — welcomed the report, seeing it as the opportunity for transforming the school.

From my experience as a senior education officer, Ofsted inspections and the agency's regular monitoring are usually effective in securing improvement. They give governors the support they need to keep the pressure on, and demand urgency from a local education authority (LEA). This healthy tension is helping to raise standards in many schools in Haringey where I live, and Hackney where I work.

The governors at Langham acted even before the report was published, suspending the head and a deputy. With LEA support, we put new



Mohammed Mehmet: Government threats did not help Langham School

managers in place. A detailed, two-year action plan in March 1995 was approved by Ofsted and by the Department for Education and Employment.

By any objective measurement, Langham is now an improving school. For example, this year's national tests for 14-year-olds show significant improvement in the core subjects of English, maths and science, and 91 per cent of the year group took GCSEs this summer, compared to 80 per cent in 1995. The school's financial future is secured and our roll

is up by 7 per cent. Every teacher has been observed and received detailed feedback.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the school and its community vigorously opposed the takeover proposal. Some would argue that, after the closure of Hackney Downs, the Government was keen to demonstrate that education associations were capable of improving schools, as well as shutting them. Therefore the easy option would be to take over a school which was already improving, though not in the public's perception. Langham school

seemed to fit this bill. From May 9 the Department for Education and Employment behaved almost as if the education association was a foregone conclusion. For example, it advised us not to go ahead with the appointment of our new head and deputy head. The governing body ignored the advice and appointed two excellent managers. Had we listened, the school would have been without a head until at least next January.

On July 18, Mrs Shephard made the right decision and recognised the effective work

of the governing body. Her announcement on May 9 was an error and it damaged the school. It caused a number of good applicants to withdraw from key teacher vacancies.

Time and effort by governors and senior school staff was spent on maintaining morale, and writing submissions for Mrs Shephard — effort which should have been spent implementing the action plan to revitalise the school.

The real lesson of Langham is that education associations are not appropriate and will be resisted where a partnership of governors, parents, staff, LEA officers and Ofsted is clearly working.

The Government should encourage this partnership to develop and follow a tough, determined programme of change and improvement. One irony is that the initial threat of an EA can help to bring about such a partnership. But carrying out the threat once the partnership is working makes no sense.

It seems to me that government intervention is necessary only in cases where there is no local strategy and political will to tackle a "failing" school. But even here, there must always be clear educational grounds. These need to be set out in advance if EAs are to have any credibility.

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THE TIMES
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TOKEN 6

Philip Howard



What's the good of being a lord if you can't run riot?

Atthor and Blandford, Marlborough and proud Moynihan, And Baron Brocket of the wandering cars, And Angus Charley Drogo Montagu, Baron Montagu and Viscount Mandeville, Twelfth Duke of Manchester, in durand velle, Across the Atlantic beyond Prospero's Isle, Where would we be without our peccant Peers, Who could be players in *Lords' Labours Lost* Or Peer for Peer, The Comedy of Earls? But why when one of you gets done For fraud and drugs, or drinking like a lord, For bigamy, bastardy, and bawdry in a stew — Or massage parlour as we call it now, In measly-mouthed days of euphemism — Or marries for the twenty-seventh time, Do all our news-sheets headline you "rogue peers"?

As though your rogues were exceptional, "Rogue peer" is a tautology. The point of peers is that they should be rogues, and do the things that excite the rest of us.

A peer refreshes the excesses that other mortals cannot reach. Shakespeare knew his nobles when he put Sir John Falstaff in Mistress Quickly's Boar's Head Massage Parlour in Eastcheap. The stately peers of England have been aristocrats for generations. The pages of *Debut's Peerage*, *Baronetage*, *Knightage*, and *Companionage* may look as disjointed as a railway timetable after privatisation, but those family histories condense a more dreadful record of sin, bigamy, bastardy, banditry and bad behaviour than a town full of respectable bourgeois. Those who can trace their family-tree back to when the family used to live in one have a history of piracy under the Normans, plunder of church property under the Tudors, a mistress of Charles II as an ancestor, and purchase of honours from James I to Lloyd George and Tory funds. It is traditional that some of Harold Wilson's life peers from the lavender honours lists ended up in jail. They were doing what a peer has to do.

Droit de seigneur may be harder to trace in fact than in *The Marriage of Figaro*, but it represents the popular myth of lordly immorality. In France, bad behaviour by the aristocracy led to their replacement by a new lot of Napoleonic aristos. Remember the slow-burning rage of La Bruyère's description of the peasants in France in the reign of Louis XIV? These wild animals, males and females, stretched out in the fields, black, livid and burnt by the sun. Attached to the soil, which they dig and turn over with invincible stubbornness. They have something like a voice, and when they stand up, they have a human face. Then the sting in the tail: *et en effet, ils sont des hommes*!

In France they guillotined their aristos. In England, with native irony, we make use of them for entertainment. From Victorian melodrama, with bold, bad baronets twirling their moustaches, through to Ayckbourn, the peccant peer is an archetype of romance. *Pamela*, which is one of the (many) candidates for matriarch of the modern novel, runs on this stock plot of aristocrat trying to have his wicked way to an unsophisticated 15-year-old, as if such a maiden ever existed: "O preserve me, heaven, from his power, and from his wickedness!"

In Wodehouse's Never-Never Land, the peccant peer plays a recurrent cameo part. It is true that Clarence, the Ninth Earl of Emsworth, is pig-obsessed rather than a rogue. But consider Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe of Matchingham Hall, who will perform any villainy to win the silver medal for his giant pig, Prid of Matchingham. Roderick Spode is ennobled as Baron Sidcup, and he is leader of the fascist Black Shorts. Lord Worpleston, married to Aunt Agatha, is not always a bad egg. But Bertie judges that given the choice of a Worpleston or a hippogriff as a walking companion, the hippogriff wins every time. The Earl of Bicester, guardian of Freddie Widgeon, is still a wealthy peer, but moths have nested for years in his wallet. He won the Fat Uncles competition at the Drones Club. Sir Watkyn Bassett, Bart, trousers the fines he imposes at Boshier Street Magistrates' Court. The Duke of Dunstable descends on the country homes of his pals, inviting himself for long periods. Few coats could have less hair, and any walrus would be proud of the moustache through which he strains his snout.

Lord Moynihan saw himself as "the typical English gentleman". In the High Court, Sir Stephen Brown described him as "a thoroughly dishonest rogue". Both right. He was that source of amusement in the comedy of manners, the rogue peer.

Clive Aslet describes the desperate plight of the beef and dairy industry after yesterday's news

So the ministry of madness strikes again

Yesterday, as Britain's beef and dairy farmers sat down to the evening news, they heard one of their worst fears realised. Until then, it seemed possible that cattle could only contract the brain disease BSE by eating feed containing the ground up remains of sheep and other cattle. This idea was supported by the dramatic fall in the incidence of BSE after the feed was banned. But the ban should, in theory, have eliminated BSE completely from British herds. In fact, cases continue to occur at a rate of almost 200 a week.

Officials tried hard to find explanations which supported the original hypothesis, though they never sounded very convincing. One heard that tests at government research stations, to be completed at the end of this year, were expected to indicate that BSE could not be transmitted vertically, from mother cow to calf. Farmers now know that this hope was unfounded. In a very small number of cases, vertical transmission does seem to be taking place.

The findings are provisional, but they could have devastating consequences. They make nonsense of the Government's policy of culling older cattle as a means of exterminating BSE. If BSE is to be stamped out, the cull will have to extend to the progeny of all diseased cattle. Already, before yesterday's announcement, the Government had accepted that its slaughter policy would kill 50 healthy animals for every one that was infected. This was an appalling and tragic waste. Now it is possible that far greater numbers of cattle will have to be sacrificed.

Some farmers have already gone to the wall over BSE. Very few if any new cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in

young people — with which there may conceivably be a link with BSE — have appeared since the spring. So it may yet be that more deaths will result from farmers committing suicide than from children eating hamburgers. On the other hand, some farmers have already taken such a battering that they will barely notice the latest burden. Alan Bartlett, the chairman of the Somerset branch of the National Farmers Union, consoles himself with the thought that only 1 per cent of calves born to BSE-infected cows will have contracted BSE from their mothers. This, he points out, is a very small number — not to be confused with 1 per cent of the national herd.

The ghastly prospect that it may be possible for BSE to be transmitted through milk is quashed by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee's report. While the scientists do not believe that BSE is passed from cow to calf through blood, they equally assure us that milk is safe. "In commercial dairy herds where the bulk of BSE cases arise, calves do not receive their mothers' milk except for the first few days of life, when they receive the special milk produced at that time called colostrum. Colostrum is different in

nature from ordinary milk and is not sold for human consumption." These words will be cherished not just by farmers, but cheesemakers, chocolate makers and the makers of a host of processed foods. They should avert the Government's ultimate nightmare of the slaughter of the whole of the British dairy herd.

Even so, the ministry's stock has never been so low among the farmers who are part of its supposed constituency. Last week, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, led his entire team of ministers to the Game Fair, in Lincolnshire, his object clearly being to demonstrate the ministry's presence in the countryside. Mr Hogg made a vigorous defence of country sports. Anyone who saw him — looking, as someone said, "as grey as a corpse and lolling like a rag doll" — cannot doubt the strain he has been under. Most country people think someone must pay the price of a decade of incompetence in the ministry. That someone is Mr Hogg.

The manner of yesterday's announcement was unfortunate. Parliament was not sitting, and it happened that the Chief Veterinary Officer was scheduled to attend a meeting of the European vets. Consequently the news was made by

press release. Why did Mr Hogg and others not make themselves immediately available to answer questions? The episode recalled the disastrous announcement of the original findings about a possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Then the scientists had not troubled to warn ministers of the likely outcome of their deliberations. No contingency plans were in place.

The impression of incompetence — by officials if not by ministers — was confirmed by the manner of introducing the slaughter policy. Endless mistakes showed that the ministry, despite being dedicated to a single industry, did not understand how beef and dairy farming operate. Rationalisation has deprived the ministry of its farm advisory service, where practical experience was concentrated. It is the chaos of the slaughter policy, only partially mitigated since April, that really distresses farmers such as Mr Bartlett.

The largest measure of blame may lie not with Douglas Hogg, but even higher in the Government. The Prime Minister identified his objective in typically political terms. This is to get the European Union's worldwide ban on British exports lifted as soon as possible.

He ignores the uncomfortable reality, which is that even if the EU were to relax the ban, most other countries would maintain their own bans, which have also been imposed. There would be no one to take the meat, even if we were allowed to export it.

In Florence, the Prime Minister pledged to sacrifice an even greater number of cattle to achieve the "framework" by which the ban might be lifted. In supplication to the Euro-sceptics within his party, he even expressed the hope that the conditions for recommencing exports of British beef would be met by October. There was never any possibility of reaching that target, and he must have known it.

Before yesterday's announcement, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said that he believed it would be five years before the ban was lifted. Now that period could be doubled. What farmers need to see is leadership to restructure their industry. Rather than squandering billions of pounds on the slaughtering of cattle to fulfil political objectives, it would be better to set in train policies that would, in five or ten years' time, restore the prestige of Britain's beef and dairy industries, making them the best in the world.

At present, Britain's farmers are in limbo. Parliament's summer recess means that they must wait until October before they find out about the new rules for tracing the "cohorts" of BSE-infected cattle. They need to know the worst now. They need to plan. Then they must be given the confidence to rebuild their shattered businesses.

The author is Editor of Country Life.

Tampering with justice

Who did what with whose balls should not be a matter for the High Court

In the matter of Ian Botham, Imran Khan and Allan Lamb, I propose to start not at the beginning, nor at the end, but in a somewhat recalcitrant position, viz., the words used by the head lawyers in the case.

Now, now: I know in the past I have frequently said unkind words about the lawyers — but what I am about to say now is perfectly sincere, though the lawyers may say that it is still just lawyer-bashing. I truly mean it, with no sneering or jeering.

I want to know, truly know, how the head lawyers in a case such as the Botham/Lamb/Imran imbroglio, can keep a straight face as they pour out their clients' woes or joys or vice versa (and frequently both).

Let me give first one tiny example: it comes from the mouth of George Carman, QC, and you can't get a better lawyer than that. Hear this passage.

Mr Carman said: "What you said about Pakistan was that it was where you would like to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid."

Botham replied: "No, I said for two weeks."

When the laughter died down, Mr Carman went on: "That was a disgracefully offensive observation to the people and cricketers of Pakistan, wasn't it?"

And the answer, of course, no it wasn't, you breathtaking lawyer, and everyone in the court knew it. But I am not challenging Mr Carman: I wouldn't be such a fool as to try it on him. I am saying what I said at the beginning: how does a leading silk keep his face rigid when he has to stand on his head and wiggle his feet into the bargain, for nothing but a lousy half million snickers an hour, day and night, plus that lovely word — *refresher*.

But I am not jeering at Mr Carman. If parcels of boobies want to throw millions of pounds into the nearest dustbin, Mr Carman has the right to use his gigantic talents to point out where the dustbins stand. After all, this money, which is now being piled up in a dozen Everests, is not coming from my account or yours, and if you want to see the fun directly, you can go to the Law Courts — anyone can go, and it's free — and marvel that one crowded room can hold so many bloody fools, and that so many

gowned figures go home lurching because their pockets are weighed down with the spondulicks.

To start with, we are not discussing matters of state, let alone important figures. We are talking about a handful of — er — players, whose only significance is that they are or were good at knocking balls about. (Imran, I am told, is some kind of upply figure in Pakistan, but as far as I know, his actual talent is with the said balls.)

Now anyone who comes to this story fresh would rock with laughter or anger or both. For here are three grown men behaving like spoilt children whose fathers did not use the strap frequently enough.

Take the first bit of nonsense. Someone told me that this rubbish has — or has thought he has — been offended by being called "racist" and somebody else (or the same person) has "lacked class". Others, it is said, have (or have not) smoked marijuana, once upon a time, and yet others have claimed that they (with others saying the opposite) have done something wicked with their balls.

This pitiful nonsense has gone on and on for a fortnight, with nobody prepared to grab a handful of sense and shake it until someone points out that the shenanigans in the story would shame a drunken beggar.

Here is a pointed finger, no matter who is doing the pointing. The talk was of cricket balls being tampered with. Did the heavens fall? Were the police called? Has anyone painted RIP on the gates of Lords? If not, why not? For you see, some say the ball was tampered with and others said it wasn't, and in any case if it was tampered with, the tampering was a rather special version, in which the shape of the ball was altered, but not its condition.

Yes, grown-up men have been doing such things. And not only do they do such things, they get their bovine faces in the newspapers — yes, this newspaper, inches high. And try this: "Ian Botham told the High Court [and why didn't the High Court pour a bucket of ordure over him, eh?] that he had rejected Imran Khan's proposal to settle their dispute with a letter to *The Times*, be-

Bernard Levin



cause he didn't regard it as an apology. And this has been going on for a fortnight, whereas if little children had had the reins, this disgusting business — yes it is disgusting — would have been over in half an hour with perhaps a couple of Ovaltins.

Now we learn that Imran "had never used the word 'cheat' against anyone but himself" (how twee!), but he admitted that he had once, in 1981, used a bottle to tamper with the ball in order to clarify the demarcation between "cheating and common practice". (That's 15 years ago — this guy has got one hell of a memory.)

But let me come back to where I started, viz., the duo known (by me at least), Messrs Carman and Gray. Sticking my nose in a bit further, I wonder whether the two are bosom pals or hate each other. It wouldn't mean anything — no, I have never asked a barrister how he could fight for one side on Monday and fight for the other side on Tuesday — but out of sheer inquisitiveness I would like to know. At least, if Carman is the tops, Gray must be called the runner-up. But there go both together, shovelling in the money from the fools who go to court. And fools they certainly are. There are many honourable law-

yers who try to head-off the eager plaintiff, knowing that the plaintiff's cause is hopeless, and there are many plaintiffs who insist that they must go on with the case, only to go bust in the end. Who said "A fool and his money are soon parted"?

I would love to know what the judge thinks when such stuff lands on his bench. Take the very case we have been talking about. Presumably the judge cannot tell the entire lot to go home and boil their heads for a turnip? But, oh, if he is a case-hardened justicer, how he would despise every single person in this pesterous nonsense.

Let me come back for a moment to Messrs Carman and Gray. They won't tell us, but I would love to know this too: if a really well-heeled fool arrives at his desk, does he have even a twinge of conscience?

But that leads to the most remarkable part of this business. How, and indeed why, did we get so extraordinary a legal system — a system, that is, that matches the gladiators of the Ancient Romans? Don't you think it is strange — strange to the point of absurdity?

Hark. Two men or women — only two — stand up, in turn, and try to bemuse the 12 men and women who are called the jury. (For me, the jury system, is the greatest and most profoundly necessary part of our legal system.) Stop for a moment and think how peculiar it is that our system turns on just two men or women: the two simply stand up and argue. One of those two, or even both, could be ill, mad, drunk, stupid, deaf, bribed (though that is rare), or any of those together. But the whole system swings on the greater eloquence of one of two persons. Is that not very peculiar? And I would go further — I think it is, or certainly could be — dangerous.

No, Carman, QC, and Gray, ditto, are not going to organise a *putsch*, overthrow the Royal Family and drive the Cabinet out of the country. (Though perhaps...) There are, of course, checks and balances, notably the ones I pointed out a few paragraphs back. But then I am coming back to the horrible mess with which this business started. Yes, I agree, these people were using their own or others' money, but they were not using ours. So why should I get hot under the collar? Because, although the collar is not mine, and I would not touch it with tweezers, we make our legal system a little bit more absurd when these dummies take place.

Anyway, neither Carman, QC, nor Gray, ditto, is going to beg his bread in the gutter, and even if they have to, they could rely on me for a slice of cake.

Palace pink

FLAMINGOS are to be shipped in to Buckingham Palace, replacing the eight savagely butchered by an urban fox in February.

A mission has already travelled up from the Slimbridge Wildfowl



Pretty flamingos

and Wetland Trust, Gloucestershire, to inspect the lake at the Palace and advise on security for the creatures. The murderous fox, which skidded across a frozen lake to tear into the helpless fowl, was never captured. Residents of Victoria, however, found pink feathers strewn across their gardens for days afterwards.

Until the massacre, the Queen's flamingos were a welcome conversational gambit at royal garden parties. "We have suggested predatory proof fencing before the Queen buys any more," says an aviculturist at Slimbridge.

The twitchers advise that Her Majesty invest in a flock of Chilean birds, at just £1,200 each. They can easily be kept a Cartland pink with a simple diet of Dutch cockles and shrimps.

The Queen will not, however, be buying the birds until after their noisy autumn mating season.

Down a bomb

POISONED umbrellas went clattering to the floor at M15 HQ in central London the other day as Martin McGuinness, chairman of Sinn Féin, came ambulating through the door.

"What's he doing here?" hissed an official into the marble silence. Feeling the chilly stares, McGuinness's entourage processed to the reception desk and asked to be sent up to see a Labour MP.

After blank looks from the recep-

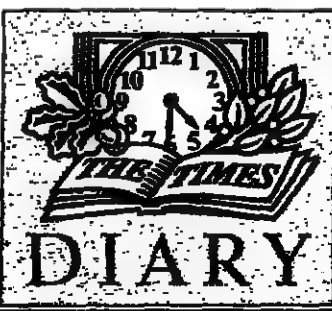
tionists and some low Irish murmurs down the telephone, the group bustled out to look at the name plate outside. Their mistake. They had intended to go several doors further along, to a block of parliamentary offices.

A tickled Republican explained McGuinness's casual demeanour as he strode into the lion's den: "He didn't know where he was. I don't know if M15 went bright red or very white and shaky when they realised who he was."

Journalists attending this year's Labour Party Conference in Blackpool have found a bizarre new section on their application forms for press passes. They are required to send in their car registration numbers — even if they are not taking their cars to the conference. "For the first time, the police have insisted on us having the same levels of security as the Conservatives this year," explains a Labour official, smugly.

Cakewalk

DEBUTANTES are torn over the future of the cake at the Queen Charlotte's Ball. Traditionally, the debbs have tottered down a grand stairway in their white frocks and heels before curtsying to a colossal



6ft cake. For the giant pastry symbolises royalty.

In the latest edition of *Hello!* magazine, however, the Countess of St Andrews, the new chairman of the Queen Charlotte's Hospital Appeal, declares her intention to "emphasise the hospital and the research, and not be sidetracked by cakes". Viz: there will be no overgrown confection in future.

One who is not sorry to see the cake go is Lady Elizabeth Anson, party planner, whose own coming out was marked by her brother, the Earl of Lichfield, dropping mice on parachutes onto the passing debbs. "I don't think today's debbs will miss it at all," she says. "I found it completely ridiculous."

Metallurgists attending a recent convention at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, were sorely

let down. After three days of serious alloy talk the delegates gathered on the metal staircase for the end-of-conference photo. As the photographer raised the camera, the staircase fractured under their weight.

Fives alive

IT IS with Britain's unimpressive Olympic medal tally in mind that the *Diary* launches its campaign for the introduction of more British sports into the Games. If the Americans can have beach volleyball



"Too much Olympics"

and mountain biking, roll on Olympic Eton Fives.

Invented when two boys began whacking a ball between the buttresses of Eton College chapel, the game requires skill, fitness and snake-like cunning. Prominent players have included Lord Kingsdown, former Governor of the Bank of England, and the Marquess of Bath, known as Twitter at school. Prince William, a left-hander, is useful from the back of the court.

"For some reason it is very popular in Nigeria," says John Reynolds, 11 times World Eton Fives Champion. "There are new courts in Geneva and some in Nepal and Argentina. I used to fantasise about playing in the Olympics but it never happened." Tomorrow, shove ha'penny.

Stone me

JUST a year after the last Rolling Stones tour, Mick Jagger is keen to ride again. He is said to want to hit those few deprived corners of the world yet to feel the hot blast of the greatest rock band on earth.

Until the other members rally round, however, the 53-year-old grandpa and still agile hipswinger is turning his energies to movie-making with films about Che Gue-



Flashing back: Jagger

vara and Dylan Thomas already planned.

Earlier this year, I reported that he is producing the movie of Robert Harris's novel *Enigma*. Next up is a spy thriller about Guevara and his love for an East German spy.

After that comes a bio-pic of Dylan Thomas. "He's very keen to develop his movie career," says an insider. "But he is determined to walk before he can run. He just does like to work."

P.H.S



A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

Ministers are increasingly incredible over BSE

The announcement that BSE can, after all, be passed from cow to calf indicates that this Government still has not learnt how to handle the delicate matter of restoring confidence in British beef. Over four months ago Steven Dorrell, the Health Secretary, alarmed the public and distressed farmers with his maladroit presentation of new evidence which pointed to a link between BSE in cows and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Mr Dorrell's clumsy announcement provoked a public health panic whose consequences still haunt our countryside. Now Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, has again released complex and worrying scientific information in a manner bound to maximise concern. The credibility of this Administration has suffered another blow and it is a mercy for ministers that the Commons is not in session to give them the roasting they deserve.

The Ministry of Agriculture maintains that settled scientific opinion insists there is no new health risk as a result of this announcement. But the Government's BSE record suggests that today's settled scientific opinion can become tomorrow's discredited bromide. In 1988 the Government maintained that BSE could not be passed from cattle to humans. In 1989 the Government's scientists said the disease could not be passed from cow to calf. Both confident assertions have now been contradicted.

Mr Hogg's admission yesterday came only two weeks after public confidence in farming was further shaken when it was revealed that BSE could affect sheep. Before then ministers had doubted that the disease could spread in this fashion. The history of ministerial management of BSE is of complacency and casualness. No wonder the public's capacity to take them seriously has taken a battering.

The manner of yesterday's announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture certainly does not suggest a department confident in its conclusions. A private briefing and a bald press release with ministers fugitive for much of the day does not inspire faith. Neither does the content of the ministry's statement. Experiments suggest that BSE is passed from infected cows to calves in 10 per cent of cases. The Ministry argue the risk of transmission is, after adjustment, only 1 per cent. The Ministry may be right, but playing down risks and hoping for the best is not the way to restore confidence.

Consumer confidence, in this country and especially across Europe, has shown itself a fragile thing. Although the evidence may suggest that there is no new risk to human health the damage has already been done to hopes of an early lift to the ban on British beef exports. The political capital expended during the beef war bought little. Those gains are set at even less after yesterday.

Political reputations may fall further but ministers, by their mishandling of matters, are the authors of their own misfortune. The largely innocent victims of yesterday's debacle will be the farmers. The slaughter plan which compelled them to cull so many of their livestock looks certain to be extended. It is hard for farmers to face the early death of animals in whom they have invested so much, financially and emotionally. Even if the cull is extended there is little prospect of guaranteeing the eradication of the disease if it can pass from cow to calf. Farmers could face the prospect of the disease lingering in the cow population for years to come, and with it doubts, however unjustified, about British beef. Quality produce has been undermined by ill-qualified ministers. A price will have to be paid.

END OF THE NEW DEAL

Clinton has trumped Bob Dole's last ace

Sixty-one years after F. D. Roosevelt promised the America of the Great Depression a New Deal, President Clinton is poised to sign into law a radical Bill to reform the American welfare system. Both supporters and critics of the Bill, which is essentially of Republican design, claim that it will assign to history not only the great web of federally-guaranteed aid to the poor, but the social contract at the heart of New Deal liberalism.

The electoral calculation behind Mr Clinton's decision is obvious. He fought and won the 1992 election as a New Democrat who had distanced himself from his party's big-spending liberal wing. Nothing so clearly defined the profile he then presented to voters — and in particular to suburban white Americans worried about their taxes — as his pledge of "an end to welfare as we know it". Having vetoed two earlier drafts of this legislation, a third veto would have laid the President wide open to Republican taunts that behind the reforming façade was just another untrustworthy, unreconstructed liberal Democrat. By promising to sign it, he trumps Senator Bob Dole's ace.

Whatever the politics involved, the decision is the right one. Whatever claims can be made for America's nationalised welfare system, it has undoubtedly fostered welfare dependency; it has demonstrably failed to get rid of acute poverty; and public support for open-ended welfare payments has long ago evaporated. The Bill's main provisions — to require the able-bodied to return to work after two years on benefit, to limit lifetime welfare assistance to five years per family, and to shift authority over welfare spending from Washington to state capitals — have solid bipartisan support.

The Bill does not, however, merely decentralise decisions about eligibility and management, through the introduction of

federal block grants to states. It will also cut the federal bill, by \$55 billion over six years. This will not automatically, as liberal Democrats allege, "throw a million into poverty"; but states will have to make up the shortfall in federal grant, or scale back their programmes. State taxes are highly devolved to local level, and taxpayers in affluent suburbs may prove no reader to pay higher state taxes to help the inner city poor in their own state than they are to fund a federal programme. The Bill deserves to be given a chance to work; but it is, deliberately, patchy in design and it could be even patchier in implementation.

Mr Clinton will be well satisfied to have forced the Republicans to share the credit for a popular reform. But with this Bill, he also buries a once hugely influential part of the Democratic Party, the broad coalition of unionised labour, urban blacks, northern liberals and parts of the business community that supported big government in the name of social justice.

The funeral wake could be stormy, splitting next month's Democratic Convention, if the vote in the House of Representatives is anything to go by: 98 Democrats voted for, and 98 against. The split could even affect turn-out. Mr Clinton's promise, if re-elected, to repeal clauses which have caused most anger among Democrat activists, including the exclusion of legal immigrants from benefits, may not appease the local teams who run get-out-the-vote operations. Mr Clinton knows, however, that the Right now makes the political running in America. Mr Clinton won in 1992 by convincing voters that he was ready to redraw the boundaries of the State. To win in 1996, he had to provide concrete proof that he was ready to face down the battalions of tradition in his party. This he has now done.

A TALE OF TWO SUMMERS

Nothing compares with the unique British seaside experience

A hundred summers ago Queen Victoria celebrated her diamond jubilee with a conference of prime ministers from all her colonies. The Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, declared that the Empire must unite if it was to survive the growing power of continental rivals. At Bexhill Lord de la Warr's XI beat the touring Australians. A newspaper entitled the *Daily Mail* began publication: its competitors expressed doubts about whether there was a niche in the market for it. And at Eastbourne, Susanna Barratt and her 18-year-old daughter Sarah opened a boarding house for the booming British summer holiday trade.

Today Queen Victoria's great-great-granddaughter sits on the throne. The British Empire is one with Nineveh and Tyre. No English XI is likely to beat the Australians at Bexhill, or elsewhere. But, as we report on page 6, the Barratt's York House Hotel in Eastbourne is still in business, having been owned and managed by the same family for a century. No other hotel has come forward to claim such continuity, so it is celebrating its centenary of the great British summer holiday alone.

In August 1896 the price of dinner, bed and breakfast for one for a week in the York House Hotel was £18 8 shillings. This August it is £252. The great-grandson of the founding matriarch who manages the hotel wishes to halt such rampant inflation. And there have been changes in other things than the tariff. Running hot water has been

installed, and television. In 1896 the first Olympic Games of the modern era were being held in Athens, mercifully without television. In 1996 guests at York House are glued to Atlanta. In 1896 fresh sea water was carried upstairs for bathing, and guests scandalised Victorian prudery with their bathing costumes on the parade.

Empires and dynasties pass, and the pound in the holidaymaker's pocket dwindles. But the York House Hotel is a breakwater of continuity in a surging world. From Eastbourne to Sidmouth, and from Whitby to Frinton, such comfortable seaside establishments offer the attractions of bracing bucket-and-spade escape with respectability, cream teas and a piano tinkling old tunes in the ballroom. All are part of the great British seaside heritage.

Britons have gone after the sunburn and hot sands of the Costa Brava, the Caribbean and Florida. Package tours have brought exotic oceans within the reach, purse and tourist-one-upmanship of most people. But in its annual report today the English Tourist Board shows that the great British seaside holiday is still booming after a century of change. Forget foreign temptations and alien ways. Those Barratts helped to create a peculiar British treasure in 1896. A century from now Britain will have changed in unpredictable and unimaginable ways. But come hail and high water, places such as the York House Hotel will still be playing their very British escapade trade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Shepherd's 'threat' to excellence of university research

From Professor Graham Zellik

Sir, Your report (July 29) that Gillian Shepherd is to put forward a plan to the Dearing committee on higher education funding for research funding to be concentrated in a "premier league" of universities. This comes as no surprise, since a small group of vice-chancellors has been berating ministers and officials for some time now with a beguiling argument, which runs as follows:

Present funding levels imperil quality research across the whole higher education sector; we shall soon have no research of international quality left; we know there is no extra government money, but if only ministers would ensure that all or most of the existing research money were concentrated in just a handful of institutions, then we could secure a group of internationally recognised research universities.

The argument is spurious. The higher education funding councils already distribute virtually all their funds for research on the basis of quality, and the additional funds from the research councils, charities, industry, the EU and other sources are also carefully judged and highly competitive.

Oxford and Cambridge lead the field in England by a wide margin with research funds from all sources exceeding £100 million. There is then a group of five universities whose total research income ranges from about £60 million to £90 million (Birmingham, Imperial, Leeds, Manchester and University College London).

Then come a group of eight with research funding from £40 million (Bristol, King's College London, Liverpool, Queen Mary and Westfield, Sheffield, Southampton, Nottingham and Newcastle).

Is it really Mrs Shepherd's wish to divert research funds from these institutions in order to sustain the others? And what about Leicester, Sussex, Warwick and others which fall off this list because of size, and the many small, highly specialised institutions of international distinction?

The simple fact is that such a policy would destroy a whole range of research universities and would have only the most modest impact on those institutions at the top of the list.

The present research funding ar-

rangements already reward the most successful and encourage them to grow bigger. They are rewarded financially for recruiting good staff from other universities but there is no evidence that the work done in these bigger departments is any better than what was being done in their previous institutions.

This Government's policies on student expansion coupled with reductions in unit funding already threaten the international standing and quality of our university system. This latest proposal suggests it is now bent on destroying the research status of most of Britain's research universities.

Some of us will resist this misguided and pernicious development at every opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELLIK (Principal),
Queen Mary and Westfield College,
University of London, E1 4NS,
July 29.

From the Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge

Sir, The national academies' group which studied the "Research Capability of the University System", which I chaired, did not support a "super league scheme" for British universities, as your report comes perilously close to implying. We were gravely concerned at the underfunding of the university system, not least for research; and in our view this would lead inevitably to a concentration of research funds in some university departments rather than others, based on the national assessments of research quality.

In short, we were particularly concerned to maintain the excellence of UK research measured against international standards, in whatever university it is to be found.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRISON,
The Master's Lodge,
Selwyn College, Cambridge.

From Dr B. W. Manley, FEEng

Sir, While universities remain seriously underfunded it is indeed imperative only to reward excellence in research. However, that is assessed at the departmental level within universities, not at the level of the whole university.

Safety campaigning

From Mr Tim Challis

Sir, I must take issue with your obituary for James Tye, the Director General of the British Safety Council (July 24; also letters, July 25, 26).

As somebody who worked with Tye in the mid-1980s, and who co-authored a book with him a year or so later, I knew first-hand of his many failings. Equally, as his Chief Press Officer during this period, I am only too aware of the fact that he was an inveterate self-publicist.

However, to dismiss either Tye or the British Safety Council as not bearing much investigation, as your obituary does, is simply not fair. Tye's antics brought him admirers as well as critics, and he often campaigned on issues, such as the availability of lethal weapons, that generated considerable parliamentary and public sympathy.

Tye's National Safety Awards scheme was tokenistic, but at least it engendered some safety awareness in small companies, many of which were unlikely ever to receive an official inspection. The Safety Council offered a range of information, training and publicity services.

The public are often exasperated by the inertia of official institutions, which allow incidents such as the Hungerford massacre to repeat themselves before anything is done. That is why Tye flourished: not simply because he was a self-publicist, but because the public needed somebody like him, whatever his motives, to cause mischief and question accepted procedures.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CHALLIS,
25 Victoria Terrace,
Tadworth, West Yorkshire,
July 26.

Medical safeguards

From the General Secretary of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists

Sir, Your report (July 24, later editions) that the Joint Consultants Committee has recommended that each specialist profession must agree which medical procedures could safely be delegated to non-doctors includes a reference to poorly trained and inadequately supervised chiropodists. This, by implication, includes those that are state registered.

Anyone can set up in a private practice as a chiropodist but to become state registered, and thus to work in the NHS, a chiropodist must complete a three-year honours degree course. A state-registered chiropodist would undoubtedly recognise "signs of poor circulation caused by heart disease" and make an appropriate and immediate referral to a registered medical practitioner.

This Society would entirely support the initiative of the Joint Consultants Committee to regulate surgical practice. However, we would remind the medical profession that state-registered chiropodists are independent practitioners who have developed a suc-

Britain's lack of success in Atlanta

From Councillor Dr Paul Walker

Sir, The current furore over our dismal performance in Atlanta ("Medal famine prompts a ministerial intervention", later editions, July 31; letters, August 1) is a cause for surprise; the low medal count itself is not. It was entirely predictable.

As a practising epidemiologist I know, as an empirically demonstrable fact, that the parts of a population are representative of the whole. Thus, for example, in a population which consumes a lot of alcohol there will be a high proportion of people who are alcoholics and problem drinkers. In a population with a low overall consumption the equivalent proportion will be low. So also with sporting performance. Our performance at the Olympics, as in soccer, tennis, cricket, etc., is thus a reflection of a low overall sporting prowess nationally — at representative, club and community levels.

This state of affairs is widely and wrongly ascribed to inadequate facilities and financial support. The true underlying cause of our generally low level of sporting attainment, like that of our low levels of academic, research and managerial achievements, is the prevalent depressed state of the national psyche — the much talked-about lack of "feel-good" factor is only the tip of the iceberg. This state is itself caused by, among other things, decades of poor or misguided political leadership and our pervasive backward-looking culture.

Sporting performance is not a dissociated entity. Like handwriting, gait, speech, etc., in individuals it is an important indicator of the collective psyche and one that merits serious attention — not just the application of nos-

One of the great advances of this Government was to remove the division between polytechnic and university and to provide a single funding structure that would reward excellence wherever it was present; for this same Government to propose returning to a two-tier system is perverse, and would lose all that has been gained on both sides of the divide. Some of our "new" universities do good research in particular sectors, sometimes not matched by many older universities. None is good at everything.

Excellence in research must be rewarded at a level of funding that will ensure that it is of a world class. There are two solutions. We could fund our university research at a level equivalent to that in Germany, Japan, France or the USA, where the national benefits that it brings are recognised. Or we must find ways of rationing what we have. The mechanism is already in place to do that through the four-yearly research assessment exercise: we do not need to invent super-universities in order to make the best of a bad job.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN MANLEY
(Senior Vice-President, Royal Academy of Engineering, 1994-96),
Hopkins Crank, Ditching Common,
Hassocks, Sussex.

From the Principals of the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh

Sir, In your report on plans for "a premier league" of British universities, you list eight top research spenders. In that list, however, you omit the two leading Scottish universities.

The latest available data (for 1994-95) show the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow at 5th and 7th in the UK respectively, as gainers both of external research grants and contracts, and of research allocations from funding councils. Both our universities, therefore, must figure prominently in any elite cadre of British universities.

Yours sincerely,
GRAEME DAVIES,
Principal, University of Glasgow,
STEWART SUTHERLAND,
Principal, University of Edinburgh,
The University of Glasgow,
Glasgow G12 8QQ,
July 29.

trums such as sports scholarships and a sports academy (report, July 25).

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WALKER,
8 Church Avenue,
Sneyd Park, Bristol, Somerset,
August 1.

From Mr Geoffrey Peake

Sir, As in so many other walks of British life, the reason for our lacklustre sporting performance seems to be that there is no committed or sustained long-term investment. Instead of continuing to trundle out, time after time, sportspeople who have reached, if not gone past, their "sell by date", we should be supporting and preparing future generations for sustained good performances. It is embarrassing to see people appear at events who cannot succeed and should have retired gracefully at the right time.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY PEAKE,
113 Mottram Old Road,
Stalybridge, Cheshire.

From Mrs S. Prichard

Sir, Our first, and so far only, gold medal winner is a man who has devoted his life to the true Olympic spirit and, in the history of the Games, is only the fourth person to achieve a gold medal in four consecutive Games: so shouldn't it have been rower Steven Redgrave who had the honour of prime position on the front page of *The Times* this morning rather than Linford Christie?

Yours faithfully,
S. PRICHARD,
North End House,
Chiddingfold, Surrey,
July 29.

welfare of the patient throughout the process. Your report on medical tasks performed by non-medically qualified health professionals concentrated on surgical procedures but the questions raised by the Joint Consultants Committee's document apply equally to non-surgical activities, including diagnostic procedures.

Thus when a specialist refers a patient to a consultant radiologist in an X-ray department, he or she may be examined by a non-medically qualified radiographer. In these circumstances we suggest the patient should always be told the status of the person undertaking the examination and that of the medically qualified consultant radiologist responsible for the work of that member of staff.

There is a need for a public debate on the issue of non-medical health professionals extending their role but we suggest the general medical training given to doctors before they specialise is an important safeguard for a patient whose illness may not always fit into a narrow area of special skill.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BRINDLE, President,
The Royal College of Radiologists,
38 Portland Place, W1,
July 28.

Aldeburgh at odds on Britten statue

From Mr Mstislav Rostropovich and others

Sir, Included in *The Times* of July 24 was a report by Dajana Albergé entitled "Aldeburgh prefers bird table to statue of Benjamin Britten" (see also letter, July 26; article, July 30). Benjamin Britten was, without doubt, one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, and we hope that the town of Aldeburgh will consider it an honour to erect a statue in the centre of the town to celebrate his genius and his love of Aldeburgh.

Yours faithfully,
M. ROSTROPOVICH,
COLIN DAVIS,
GENNADI ROZHDESTVENSKY,
GEORG SOLTI,
c/o London Symphony Orchestra,
Level 6, Barbican Centre, EC2,
August 1.

From Mr Gideon Sherman

Sir, I would like to propose a conceptual strategy in response to the problem of commemorating Sir Benjamin Britten in Aldeburgh:

1) Commission statue of Britten and select site;
2) Dig hole and bury statue six foot underground.

As well as representing the continued presence and absence of Benjamin Britten, in the long term this approach offers opportunity for revision in accordance with changes in local sentiment, levels of unemployment, and prevailing economic, aesthetic and curatorial doctrine.

Yours faithfully,
GIDEON SHERMAN,
33 Fournier Street, E1,
July 30.

From Mr Peter Kirwan

Sir, Had they not voted for them, one would have to pity the citizens of Aldeburgh, their affairs being managed by such councillors.

George Crabbe must be a front-runner for the title of England's most forgotten poet; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's name is well known in London's Camden, where a hospital bears her name, though (unjustly) few know why. But for Britten no one would know of sleepy little Aldeburgh or, come to that, of their councillors' weighty discussions of the relative merits of a bird table or a tree.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIRWAN,
4 Route Neuve,
34150 Montpeyroux, France,
July 26.

From Mrs Tricia Maguire

Sir, I think Benjamin Britten would have been highly amused by the arguments over his proposed statue... he might even have written an opera on the subject.

However, would not the figure of Peter Grimes be a suitable memorial? He was the character created in *The Borough*, a poem by another of Aldeburgh's celebrities, George Crabbe; he later became the subject of Britten's most renowned opera; and he was a fisherman.

Yours faithfully,
TRICIA MAGUIRE,
Manor Farm,
Benhall Green,
Saxmundham, Suffolk,
July 26.

Cabbies' hours

From Mr Peter Gibson

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Orme (letter, July 31) asks whether black-cab drivers are subject to the same hours restrictions as other commercial drivers. The answer is that licensed taxi drivers in London are self-employed and as such their hours are not subject to any restrictions. The type of work they do means several natural breaks — quiet periods of trade and meal stops for example — during the day/night.

The Radio Taxis driver who took the young lady from Waterloo to Dun-dee (report, later editions, July 25) took several breaks on the way there. On his return he stopped and slept for four hours before continuing home, and then took two days off.

Yours etc,
PETER GIBSON
(Head of Strategic Development),
Radio Taxis,
Mountview House,
Lennox Road, N4,
August 1.

A cup overflowing?

From Dr R. C. Cooleedge

Sir, Mr Terence Wiseman (letter, July 29) remarks that the Reverend David Burrell has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of Priest-in-charge of 12 parishes in Norfolk, and wonders whether his note-paper was not large enough.

Interestingly I learn that he has now accepted the post of Priest-in-charge of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell, Flenington with Hengrave and Lackford, Fornham All Saints, Fornham St Martin with Fornham St Genevieve, and Timworth.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. COOLEEDGE,
Conewood House,
10 Parklands Green,
Fornham St Genevieve,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
July 30.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

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TODAY

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Chinese diver extends her board monopoly
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 2 1996



Making their mark: Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of TI, and Brian Walsh, vice-chairman, are looking for bolt-on acquisitions. The engineering group increased profits by 43 per cent to £125 million in the first half. The trading outlook remains mixed. Page 22, *Tempus* 24

Yorkshire Electricity to boost dividend by 34%

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE Electricity yesterday kicked off what is expected to be a fresh round of bonanzas for utility shareholders, with the promise of a 34.4 per cent rise in next year's dividend. The move was seen as an attempt to thwart a windfall tax on privatised utilities.

Chris Hampson, chairman, revealed plans for the large increase in pay-out at the company's annual meeting in Grimsby. He said Yorkshire would deliver the value to shareholders because of its "continuing excellent performance". The company, one of the five independent regional electricity companies, also re-

newed its remit to spend about £110 million buying back 10 per cent of its own shares. City analysts are expecting a spate of shareholder bonanzas from the utilities as the possibility of a Labour government — with its threat of a windfall tax — moves closer.

A report from SBC Warburg, the broker, advises investors to expect returns of about £1.3 billion from several utilities in 1996-97, as they gear up in the approach to the election. It expects the more politically neutral share buy-backs to gain in popularity.

Electricity companies are likely to deliver far greater returns because they are less limited than the water companies by capital expenditure demands.

Since 1994 more than £5.8 billion has been returned by utility companies to shareholders in share buy-backs and special dividends. National Power made corporate history several weeks ago with a £1.1 billion special dividend.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst with Yamaichi, said that the threat of a utilities tax from a new government was a consideration for companies planning shareholder returns. "They don't really want to serve up their balance sheets on a platter to a Labour government," he said.

On Wednesday, Thames Water spent £224.5 million buying back 10 per cent of its shares. Yorkshire hinted yesterday at fresh developments beyond

the dividend increase and buy-back authorisation. The company said that its board "intends to keep the issue of further returns of value to shareholders under review".

Yorkshire's net dividend will rise to 52.66p per share, compared with a 10 per cent increase previously forecast. The increase will be cut back to more modest proportions in 1997-98, with the company expecting a 7 per cent jump on the 96-97 figure.

The scale of the increase surprised the City and Yorkshire's share price jumped 26p, to 707p. Expectations of similar action across the sector helped to lift the shares of a number of other regional electricity companies.

Utilities are expected to

become an increasingly emotive political subject as election campaigning starts in earnest. Labour is thought to be nurturing an armoury of fat-cat offensives as it reinforces its arguments for a windfall tax, which could net up to £5 billion.

Mr Hampson told shareholders that their boost was complemented by benefits to customers. He announced a 6.8 per cent reduction in electricity prices for domestic and small business customers, making Yorkshire's electricity the cheapest in the country.

However, 5.7 per cent of that decrease has been fuelled by the reduction in the fossil fuel levy announced recently by the electricity regulator after the flotation of British Energy.

Deutsche set to challenge both BT and Mercury

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM is planning a serious challenge to Mercury Communications and BT in the corporate telecommunications market by joining forces with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron.

The link with the two cable companies would give Deutsche Telekom access to the bulk of the business clients in Europe's financial capital because their franchise spans Westminster, the City of London and Canary Wharf.

Bell Cablemedia and Videotron, in turn, would get an instant international partner because Deutsche Telekom, along with France Telecom and Sprint, the third-largest American long-distance carrier, is a member of the Global One partnership. Global One competes with Concert, BT's joint venture with MCI of America, and Unisource, which was formed by AT&T and several smaller European carriers.

Sources close to the talks said that Deutsche Telekom and the two cable companies together, Deutsche Telekom would buy up to 30 per cent of Bell Cablemedia, the third-largest cable company. Bell Cablemedia, in turn, would bid for Videotron, the sixth-largest cable company.

Videotron, controlled by Groupe Videotron of Montreal, has been on the auction block for months. Videotron is expected to go to Bell Cablemedia because it already owns 26 per cent. Goldman Sachs is handling the Videotron sale, and Deutsche Telekom has hired Robert Fleming & Co to help it build a telecoms presence in Britain.

None of the companies would comment, though it is understood that the talks are well under way, with the goal

of an announcement by the end of the month. Bringing Deutsche Telekom and Bell Cablemedia together faces complications because of the latter's ownership structure. Bell Cablemedia is owned 42 per cent by Bell Canada International, 12.3 per cent by Jones Interco, of Denver, and 12.8 per cent by Cable and Wireless, which owns 80 per cent of Mercury Communications.

Bell Canada International in principle supports the idea of bringing Deutsche Telekom on board, but C&W, observers said, may resist such a proposal because the new group could emerge as a leading competitor to Mercury in the business market.

Another loose end is Eurobell, a relatively small cable company that is indirectly owned by Deutsche Telekom and a trust, the beneficiary of which is J. Paul Getty. Eurobell, which considers its current ownership structure unworkable, may decide to link with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron if Deutsche Telekom completes the deal.

Cable companies have complained to Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, that BT is still approaching ex-directory cable customers to try to win them back.

The complaint comes less than two weeks after Ofcom accepted BT's explanation that it did not intentionally use confidential information when it contacted the customers. BT blamed the calls on a computer encoding error.

TeleWest Communications, the largest cable company, yesterday said Stephen Davidson is to become acting chief executive. Mr Davidson, who was finance director, replaces Alan Michels, who resigned on Wednesday.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3734.4	(+31.2)
Yield	4.11%	
FT-SE All share	1848.04	(+12.80)
Nikkei	20884.83	(+292.00)
Dow Jones	8534.81	(+25.90)*
S&P Composite	845.15	(+5.20)*

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(7%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yield	8.84%	(8.89%)

9-month Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 7/8%	(10 7/8%)

New York	1.5578	(1.5588)
London	1.5572	(1.5571)
DM	2.2546	(2.2533)
FF	7.7881	(7.7819)
8FT	1.5508	(1.5538)
Yen	106.24	(106.18)
£ Index	94.7	(94.8)

London	1.4738	(1.4728)
DM	5.0028	(4.9980)
8FT	1.2008	(1.1978)
Yen	106.72	(106.58)
£ Index	95.6	(95.6)

Tokyo close	Yen 107.38	
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Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$18.85	(\$18.60)
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London close	\$985.88	(\$985.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Shell target

John Jennings, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said the oil group was on target to raise its performance in spite of a downturn in profits for the second quarter. Analysts have reduced full-year forecasts.

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Defence deal

The consolidation of the US defence industry took a big step forward with the \$3 billion purchase by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, of the defence and avionics businesses of Rockwell International.

Page 23, *Pennington* 23

Blow over Yorkshire Water debt

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER suffered a fresh blow yesterday when Moody's credit agency downgraded its debt and raised fears over its water resources.

Moody's said its outlook for Yorkshire Water was negative. "If the current plan proves to be inadequate, the water business faces further significant expenditures and increased operational risk."

The agency said there were concerns over whether the management would deliver infrastructure spending without material increases over planned levels. Moody's downgraded long-term debt from A1 to Aa3. The short-term rating is unaffected.

Consumer confidence is lifting but not booming

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER confidence is gradually improving across the country but there is no sign of a 1980s-style boom, according to a survey published today by Business Strategies, the economic consultancy.

David Fell, the director responsible for the quarterly consumer survey, said that the consumer side of the economy was picking up strongly. However, he gave warning that it was the generally high level of confidence that was impressive rather than any sign of rapid improvement.

The proportion of people who feel optimistic rather than pessimistic about the economic situation was double that recorded two years ago but still slightly lower than the same time last year. Optimism

about household finances was about the same as a year ago but there was a definite, although small, improvement in the proportion of people more willing to take the risk of a major purchase.

The overall measure of consumer sentiment — 15 — was the same as in the first and third quarters of last year but nevertheless marked a large improvement from the 10 recorded two years ago.

The Business Strategies finding came after another survey yesterday from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, which showed that British manufacturing expanded marginally for the second month in a row. It also showed that, for the second month running, it is

production and orders of consumer goods that have been the most buoyant sector. Orders of investment goods, which had been falling for five months, also returned to growth.

The overall Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 50.9 in July, compared with 50.7 in June. Output rose but at a slightly lower rate than in June. Any figure above 50 shows manufacturing is expanding, while a figure below that shows a contraction.

The most stunning element of the survey was that the institute's Prices Index fell to a new record low, proof that no inflationary pressures are emanating from industry and backing forecasts that retail prices are set to fall further.

House price rise 'highest for 7 years'

By OUR CITY STAFF

HOUSE prices rose last month at their highest rate for almost seven years, according to figures today from the Halifax Building Society. Prices for all types of homes were 5.3 per cent ahead of July last year, the fastest pace of increase since October 1989 and up from 4.0 per cent in June.

The cost of a property rose 0.5 per cent between June and July after a 0.4 downward blip between May and June, the only monthly fall for almost a year.

A spokesman for the Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, said July's reversal of June's small fall supported the society's view that prices should remain broadly stable over the summer before starting to edge up again towards the end of the year.

Psion paid £1.5m in fees over Amstrad

By JASON NISSE

PSION, the maker of hand-held computers, spent £1.5 million in fees to City firms that investigated whether it should go ahead with its aborted £230 million bid approach for Amstrad, the electronics group run by Alan Sugar.

David Potter, Psion chairman, said the fees included work on assessing other potential purchases, and added: "They are modest when compared with what they would have been had we proceeded with the transaction."

Psion employed two merchant banks, Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Charterhouse, two firms of lawyers, Slaughter & May and Paisners, and

Arthur Andersen, the accountant, and Brunswick, the public relations firm. It began talking to Amstrad — after an approach by Mr Sugar — only in May and ended the talks last month when the two sides failed to agree on a price.

Even at top City rates of £300 an hour, the fees equate to 5,000 person hours on the case, or 3.5 professionals working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all of the negotiations.

Mike Langley, Psion finance director, said that the fees were agreed before the talks. "This was a potentially extremely important acquisition for Psion and we needed the fullest and most professional advice," he said. Psion's declaration will, fuel the

debate on City fees, fired by disclosures that Granada's £3.9 billion bid for Forte cost £100 million and that the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas Industries and Vario will cost £29 million in fees.

Psion wrote off the costs in full in its half-year figures, brought forward to quell speculation about strategy after the Amstrad deal fell apart. Pre-tax profits, after writing off the £1.5 million, rose 27 per cent, to £6.5 million, underwritten largely by the success of Psion 3a palmtop computers. Earnings per share rose by 18 per cent, to 5.85p. An interim dividend of 0.65p (0.5p) is due on September 27.

Tempus, page 24



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Far East sales help lift profit at Rotork

By FRASER NELSON

CONTINUING demand from the Far East helped Rotork, the world leader in valve actuators, to offset sluggish trading in Europe and the UK, increasing pre-tax profits by 23 per cent to £9.1 million in the six months to June 30.

The company said that sales to the US have returned to normal levels, after having disappointed last year, and exports to Latin America have risen sharply. Group turnover was 15 per cent ahead at £45.7 million.

The UK sector was hit by a lack of demand from British water companies, which are drawing to the close of their spending on sewage treatment equipment, to comply with a 1991 EU directive. This slowing of demand saw UK sales dip below 15 per cent of group total for the first time.

Bill Whiteley, chief executive, said that its Exceco plant in Leeds had fully recovered from the trading difficulties it ran into last year. He added that the order book was 19 per cent ahead of last year.

Rotork Instruments and Rotork Analysis, subsidiaries which monitor pollution and emission, had a difficult first half. The company said their development would gather pace in the next six months.

Its cash pile was 23 per cent larger at £26.5 million. From this, the interim dividend was increased by 43 per cent to 3p. Earnings rose by 1.3p to 6.3p per share.

TOURIST RATES

France F	8.19	7.54
Germany Dm	2.43	2.34
Greece Dr	361	369
Hong Kong \$	12.87	11.47
Indonesia Rp	113	93
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Japan Y	181.10	185.10
Malaysia M	3.80	4.80
Netherlands G	2.77	2.87
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway K	10.68	9.81
Portugal Esc	247.90	239.00
S Africa Rd	7.83	6.80
Spain Ptas	166.00	168.00
Sweden Kr	10.82	10.12
Switzerland F	1.80	1.68
Turkey Liras	1267.70	1247.70
USA \$	1.81	1.81

For small denomination bank notes, the bank rates apply to the bank's selling rate. For large denomination bank notes, the bank rates apply to the bank's buying rate.



Bill Whiteley, chief executive of Rotork, saw its UK sector hit by lack of demand from British water companies, which are winding down their spending

Shell confident it will shake off slump in petrochemicals

By CARL MORTISHED

JOHN JENNINGS, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said the Shell oil group was on target to raise its performance in spite of a downturn in profits for the second quarter.

The continuing slump in the petrochemicals market and weak refining margins offset a sharp rise in profits from exploration and production.

Shell's net income for the second quarter was down 9 per cent on a current-cost basis to £1.9 billion, causing some City analysts to mark down their forecasts for full-year profits.

Half-year profits rose 9 per cent to a current-cost £2.8 billion before special charges of £1.1 billion. The strengthening of sterling in the second quarter resulted in a loss of £60 million. Mr Jennings said:

"We believe we are still on the way to achieve our targets. We have no cause for serious concern."

The Anglo Dutch oil multinational set itself the objective of raising its return on average capital employed to 12 per cent, and over the 12 months to June averaged 10.2 per cent. Shell Transport shares slipped back 12p to 91½p yesterday. Shell's chemicals business suffered a 54 per cent slump in

profits in the second quarter to £184 million, although it was an improvement on the first quarter.

Mr Jennings said there was a slight improvement in margins. "It looks as though we are off the bottom," he said. However, he gave warning that difficult trading conditions would continue without a significant upturn in major European economies. Pressure on refining mar-

gins in Asia left profits from refining and marketing outside the US static at £392 million. Mr Jennings suggested that the pressure on petrol retailers in the UK might cause some to quit the business. "There are many in the market today who may be considering whether this is something they wish to preserve," he said. Shell is considering a restructuring of its oil refineries in Europe and expects to make an announcement by the end of the year.

Profits from the upstream oil exploration business rose 44 per cent to £670 million, buoyed by a surge in the average oil price to \$19.50 a barrel in the second quarter.

Oil production was 2 per cent down because of asset disposals, but gas volumes rose 14 per cent, mainly in the North Sea and the Netherlands. Mr Jennings predicted little change in oil prices in the second half, suggesting that the market had absorbed the potential impact of a resumption of Iraqi oil exports. Current-year earnings per share fell from 14p to 12.9p. The interim dividend is expected to be announced on September 12.

Lasmo says it is clear of US ban

By CARL MORTISHED



Darby: exploration costs

LASMO, the oil exploration company, says that it will not be affected by American legislation banning companies from trading with states accused by the US Government of sponsoring terrorism.

Lasmo has interests in Libya, which, like Iran and Iraq, is subject to the US ban. However, John Darby, Lasmo's chief executive, yesterday said that he did not believe that the new legislation would affect existing agreements. Lasmo is drilling a well offshore from Benghazi

and seeking partners to expand the drilling programme. The company, which has a much larger exploration programme in Algeria, yesterday reported net profits of £47 million for the six months to June 30, up from £22 million in 1995.

There was a £23 million gain from selling Lasmo's Nova Scotia assets, offset by higher tax and finance costs. Mr Darby said that second-half results would be sensitive to the price of oil, strong in the first half, and could be

affected by higher exploration spending and finance costs.

Earnings per share rose from 1.4p to 3.9p. Lasmo said that, in line with stated policy, it will continue to pay an annual dividend of 1.25p "until such time as an increase can be justified". It said that the intended dividend for 1996 will be considered by the annual meeting in 1997, and is expected to be paid as a foreign income dividend.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re Case No. 96-8831A (PBA—SIPA)

A.R. BARON & CO. INC.

Debtor.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS AND CREDITORS OF A.R. BARON & CO. INC., AND TO ALL OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST.

COMMENCEMENT OF LIQUIDATION PROCEEDINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 11, 1996, the Honorable Loretta A. Preska, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, entered an Order granting the petition of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for appointment of a Protective Decree appointing the creditors of A.R. Baron & Co. Inc. as "Debtors" in the liquidation of the Debtor. The Order also appointed the Securities Investor Protection Corporation as Trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor. The Order also appointed the Securities Investor Protection Corporation as Trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor. The Order also appointed the Securities Investor Protection Corporation as Trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEBTOR

Creditor of the Debtor who wishes to assert a claim against the Debtor is required to file with the Trustee a statement of its claim. The statement of claim must be filed with the Trustee no later than 90 days after the date of this Notice. The statement of claim must be filed with the Trustee no later than 90 days after the date of this Notice. The statement of claim must be filed with the Trustee no later than 90 days after the date of this Notice.

AUTOMATIC STAY OF ACTIONS AGAINST THE DEBTOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that as a result of the commencement of the liquidation proceedings, certain suits and proceedings against the Debtor and its property are automatically stayed. The stay applies to all suits and proceedings against the Debtor and its property, whether commenced before or after the date of this Notice. The stay applies to all suits and proceedings against the Debtor and its property, whether commenced before or after the date of this Notice.

FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the first meeting of creditors and creditors will be held at the Marine World Trade Center, 1 World Trade Center, New York, New York 10048, on September 11, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Marine World Trade Center, 1 World Trade Center, New York, New York 10048, on September 11, 1996 at 10:00 a.m.

HEARING ON DISINTERESTEDNESS OF TRUSTEE AND COUNSEL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 5, 1996, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., in Courtroom 617, United States Bankruptcy Court, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Courthouse, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10003, there will be a hearing for the purpose of determining the disinterestedness of the Trustee and the Counsel. The hearing will be held at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Courthouse, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10003, on September 5, 1996 at 2:00 p.m.

James W. Glickson, Trustee of the Liquidation of the Debtor, A.R. Baron & Co. Inc. P.O. Box 100, New York, N.Y. 10024

Stephen H. Hirsch, A.R. Baron & Co. Inc. P.O. Box 100, New York, N.Y. 10024

Offices of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York, 90 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10004

BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

THE HONORABLE PRESKA & ARAM

CARLSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LIMITED

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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TI sets acquisition ceiling at £350m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

TI GROUP, the engineering company, is to continue looking for bolt-on acquisitions but is not considering a major acquisition in the near future.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, said the company did not want to become driven at the expense of its other operations. TI would concentrate on bolt-on deals between £50 million and £300 million. His comments, coupled with a mixed trading picture, caused some market jitters, but shares recovered to close unchanged, at 525p.

TI said that while the North American market was strong and aerospace orders were increasing, the European market remained difficult. TI unveiled a 43 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £125 million, while profits excluding the exceptional gain from the sale of three non-core businesses, rose 19 per cent, to £104 million.

Total sales rose 4 per cent, to £895 million, and the group operating margin increased from 11 to 12.1 per cent. John Crane, the industrial seals business, increased operating profits by 10 per cent, to £48 million, with current order books in line with last year.

Bundy, the automotive tubing division, achieved a 10 per cent increase in profits, to £40.5 million, with orders slightly ahead of last year and new contracts coming on stream for Daimler in North America and Bosch in Spain. Dowty Aerospace increased profits by 18 per cent, to £20.7 million. The dividend was increased by 9 per cent, to 4.75p, payable on October 8.



Lewinton: bolt-on deals

Tempus, page 24

Dow surge gives a boost to European stock markets

Signs of US economy cooling

By JANET BUSH

ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL Street rose strongly yesterday, providing a fillip to European stock markets, after evidence that the American economy may have started to cool down from its bumper performance in the spring.

At one point, the Dow Jones industrial average surged by more than 50 points, lifting London shares, which had been moving sideways for most of the session. The FTSE 100 index closed 31.2 points higher at 3,734.4.

The positive trigger came from the latest US purchasing managers' report that suggested manufacturing activity had slowed last month from June's rapid

pace. The purchasing managers' index fell to 58.2 from 54.3. Production, new orders and new export orders all indicated reduced rates of growth.

This report was interpreted by stock and bond markets as arguing against an interest rate rise when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on August 21. Backing up this view were some benign inflation figures that were published along with second-quarter gross domestic product figures. The economy grew at an annual rate of 4.2 per cent, the fastest for more than two years and more than twice that seen in the first quarter.

However, the two inflation measures in the GDP report slowed down. One of them—the implicit price deflator—grew at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the

second quarter, compared with 2.2 per cent in the first. However, business investment spending grew by only 0.5 per cent after growth of 11.6 per cent in the first quarter.

The Bank of France made a symbolic interest rate cut yesterday, but left its key intervention rate unchanged. Analysts said that the move reflected confidence in the franc and acknowledged that the French economy was struggling. However, the fact that the bank felt unable to cut rates more decisively showed how difficult it was to move after the Bundesbank left German rates unchanged last week. The Bank of France cut its five to ten-day rate by 15 basis points to 4.75 but left the intervention rate at 3.55 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Construction output and jobs threatened

BRITAIN'S construction industry yesterday gave warning of a further fall in output, and the loss of 30,000 more jobs, in the coming year — although it forecast a return to growth after that. The Construction Industry Employers' Council (CIEC), in its latest quarterly economic report, said it expected output to fall 1 per cent this year, but said overall growth would then be about 2 per cent in 1997.

Warning that the downturn in the industry's prospects has only recently bottomed out, the industry was sceptical about some Government interpretations of favourable prospects for the industry. Martin Laing, CIEC chairman, said: "The reality is different. The industry is only now showing signs of a slow recovery from its renewed recession." Stressing that market conditions in areas such as contracting and civil engineering remained "harsh", he said the "prospects for most companies, and particularly smaller firms, have yet to show major improvement".

Hinchliffe hearing

A HEARING to decide whether Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial Sheffield businessman, should be struck off as a director will not take place until January 23 at the earliest. District Judge Ward at Newcastle District Registry gave Mr Hinchliffe, the founder of Facia, the second largest private retailer, until October 24 to file his evidence against the proceedings and the Department of Trade and Industry until January 16 in response to this evidence. Mr Hinchliffe built his high street business by buying struggling retailers such as Sock Shop, Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxone.

Lloyd's warns names

LLOYD'S of London has told names who have launched a last ditch effort at securing a better settlement that the threat of legal action will not produce further concessions. The Paying Names Action Group, representing 3,000 members who paid their Lloyd's bills promptly, applied yesterday for a judicial review of the £3.2 billion settlement, which they say treats them unfairly. They are likely to hear early next week whether the review may go ahead. The group claims that Lloyd's has exceeded its powers. Tony Wellford, chairman of the group, said: "Lloyd's has to recognise its most loyal supporters."

Nat Power in US deal

NATIONAL POWER yesterday completed a £105 million deal to buy a gas-fired power station in Massachusetts. The purchase of the plant at Millford from Enron and Jones Capital brings to six the number of power stations in the US owned by National Power. The generator recently struck an agreement to take a 26 per cent stake in a plant in Pakistan. Both National Power, the UK's largest generator, and PowerGen, the other main player, are expanding overseas interests to tap expanding markets and to grow their businesses now they face increased competition in generation at home.

AIM reaches 200

THE Alternative Investment Market will be welcoming its 200th member today, as SCI Entertainment comes to the market with a capitalisation of £17.4 million. The company, which produces CD-Roms, is placing 3.36 million shares at 144p through Guinness Mahon & Co. It will be one of the few AIM stocks to have traded profitably since its inception, making pre-tax profits of £277,000 in the two months to April 30, on sales of £915,000. It is due to raise £4.07 million from the placing, which it will put towards program development.

Rand hits fresh lows

SOUTH AFRICA'S embattled rand continued its plunge yesterday, hitting new lows against the pound and the mark. It closed at R4.50 against the dollar, and sank to R7.01 against the pound, and R3.0816 against the mark. Currency traders were blamed for the fall, which economists believe is unwarranted. Technical charts predicting price moves also paint a gloomy picture. The falls were driven by a number of factors, including recurring rumours — frequently denied — that Chris Stals, Governor of the Reserve Bank, intends to resign.

Black Arrow stems fall

BLACK ARROW GROUP, the office-furniture supplier, said a flurry of activity in the last month of its financial year stemmed an expected drop in pre-tax profits, which fell only 1.5 per cent to £2.47 million in the year to March 31. The group, which issued a profit warning last November, increased earnings to 0.73p per share (0.45p) in spite of a 13 per cent drop in sales to £21.4 million. The final dividend was raised to 2.4p (2.1p), payable on October 8, making a total of 3.4p (3.1p).

Huntingdon recovers

HUNTINGDON International, the life-sciences company, returned to profit in the first half, reporting £2.6 million pre-tax for the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £28.4 million for the same period last year. Orders were up 10 per cent on the same period last year with strong growth in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agrochemical and industrial chemicals. The company is recruiting technical and scientific staff for its laboratories to meet demand. No dividend is being paid.

Wise holds interim

DIFFICULT trading conditions affected Leslie Wise, the textile group, as its pre-tax profits eased to £1.41 million (£1.51 million) in the six months to May 31. Margins were tightened by demand for higher quality, which reduced turnover to £32.3 million and dragged down operating profits 23 per cent to £1.58 million. The group said the long winter had pushed its spring/summer season into a late start, but trading had picked up in June and July. An unchanged interim of 1.75p will be paid on October 1, from earnings which fell to 2.6p (2.88p) a share.

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3p 11:50

□ Playing into Stagecoach's hands? □ Yorkshire's generosity to its shareholders □ Peace dividend comes at a price

Up the junction and off the rails

WHAT is the link between 50 former British Rail staff making £80 million profit in six months and the hardship half of London is going to suffer getting into work at the end of this month? The politics of rail, inevitably, sees a direct link, the fat cats creaming off the cash while the honest working man has to fight for his rights. The link is there, but it is a little more subtle.

The strikes are the first challenge to the new breed of train operators. Of the 25 operating franchises, seven private firms are already in charge; two will be hit by industrial action. The unions are well aware that the only way that seven, and the others that follow, can make a decent return is by cutting costs. In the same way, the Government sold off other grossly overmanned utilities so their management, newly incentivised by share options, would import stricter commercial disciplines to their dirty work for them (please delete according to political orientation).

The idea is that a smaller workforce has to work harder in future, as already achieved in the coach industry. The new owners, unlike the Government, have a genuine incentive to achieve cuts, but they are far more vulnerable to industrial action. Stop the trains, under public ownership, and the lost revenues come out of taxes. Stop them under private

ownership and the operators are still required to pay Railtrack for access to the line. There is a limit to how long they can endure.

The strikes this month, and those that will inevitably follow, will show which is the stronger force, incentivisation or industrial vulnerability. But add one further complication. In the shape of Brian Souter, Mr Souter wants to reintegrate part of the rail network by buying Porterbrook, which leases trains to the operators. His Stagecoach company already runs one franchise, South West, and wants more.

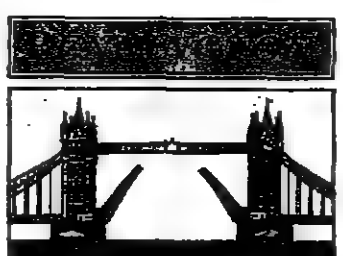
Labour politicians were in traditional knee-jerk mode about the bonuses to managers his bid for Porterbrook could — note, could — trigger. There must be a doubt whether the deal will evade a Monopolies & Mergers Commission reference, however hard Stagecoach may wriggle. There must be more doubt whether Mr Souter, teetotal evangelical Christian though he may be, is the right person to run the railways after the MMC damned his company's behaviour in an earlier report as

"predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

But here is a third point to give the unions sleepless nights. Porterbrook, with its guaranteed revenues, is one of the safest vehicles on the railways, a point recognised by the low equity-to-debt ratio of the original management out. It provides an ideal cross-subsidy with which South West and others under the Stagecoach umbrella might ride out future strikes. The unions, by weakening other train operators to the point that the franchises seek new owners such as Stagecoach, may end up doing Mr Souter's work for him.

Making free with the brass

IF THEY push the boat out much further in Yorkshire they will be half way across the North Sea. The dividend rises promised at Yorkshire Electricity's annual meeting would be startling in any industry. From one that faces instant penalty within months, they look suicidal. There are three possible



explanations. Yorkshire is convinced there is a bidder on the horizon, and is getting its "scorched earth" policy in place first by demonstrating to shareholders the benefits of loyalty. Arguing against this is the fact that the 60-day bid timetable gives plenty of time to put such a defence in place. The history of utilities bids is littered with false starts, widely rumoured approaches that came to nothing. Yorkshire is now locked into making those payments, perhaps unnecessarily.

This explanation is bolstered by the renewal of the power to buy back 10 per cent of the share capital, another useful defensive measure, but not much use if the second alternative is the case. Is

Yorkshire trying, in a rather ham-fisted way, to avoid the utilities tax threatened by Labour for shortly after the election? Just as a man facing bankruptcy might put the house in his wife's name, is Yorkshire pledging to hand out any spare cash in order to plead poverty once Gordon Brown comes knocking?

This explanation, too, has its failings, not least because Yorkshire is among the more Blair-friendly of the utilities, deeply concerned, for example, that in a fully competitive market the poor may have to pay more than the rich for their electricity. More to the point, Mr Brown if he has any sense will not be much impressed by pleas of poverty. What has been given to shareholders can be taken back, if necessary, in the form of a rights issue. Promises of dividend rises can be set aside if circumstances change and the company can no longer afford it.

The third explanation is that Yorkshire, as executives claim, is committed to being a pure utility that does the job as cheaply as possible, paying any surplus cash to its owners, the shareholders. In

that case, and in spite of the talk of low prices, a matching gesture to customers might seem politically sensible at some stage.

Bullet messages from America

IF SUPERFICIALLY, Boeing's \$3.2 billion purchase of Rockwell's legendary and controversial space and defence business may seem of relatively little interest in Britain. At one level, it is merely the latest stage in the headlong consolidation of America's defence industry. As one Wall Street analyst put it: "This is what was forecast when the Berlin Wall fell. This is the peace dividend."

Shareholders clearly gain part of this dividend, via the benefits of tax-free financial engineering, plus the prospect of a less competitive, if shrunken, home market on which to base add-on export sales. Boeing evidently finds this attractive enough to boost its defence and space content from under 30 per cent to about 40 per cent.

This process is, however, creat-

ing powerful companies that few in Europe can compete with on level ground. Europe's consolidation is more piecemeal and unimpressive.

Transnational mergers are reckoned vital from a commercial standpoint, but no big country wants to sell its defence companies to another. France, which insists on being involved in all strategic European mergers, also insists on dominating them, naturally putting other countries off.

Britain, having traditionally the strongest defence industry outside America and the old USSR, is likely to be the biggest loser. Our best companies are bickering and coming to rely too much on a few potentially vulnerable customers. They should get together.

Fat cat claim

LABOUR Research has spoiled its survey of fat cats and golden handshakes by claiming the Greenbury report is not doing its proper job of preventing such abuses. Many, however, and certainly the most lucrative, predate Greenbury — some may even have helped to spark its creation. To adapt an old radical slogan that will be familiar to Labour Research, Greenbury is not part of the problem, it is part of the solution.

Record half-year profits for AIB fuelled by growth surge

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

DOUBLE-DIGIT profit growth across every division resulted yesterday in record half-year pre-tax profits for Allied Irish Bank Group. Ireland's largest banking group, which has Tom Mulcahy as chief executive, announced a 13.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to June 30 of Ir£201.1 million compared with Ir£177.1 million for the same period last year.

James Culliton, chairman who announced earlier this week that he would be stepping down at the end of this year, said he was confident that the next six months will see the trend continue. Earnings per share grew by 13.7 per cent to Ir£8.3 pence, with the company declaring an interim dividend of Ir£5.95 pence.

In the AIB bank division, which has retail interests in the Republic, Northern Ireland and Britain, profits jumped by 12.8 per cent, to Ir£102.2 million, on the back of robust lending growth. The Republic led the way with a 10.1 per cent increase, Northern Ireland rose by 6.3 per cent while in Britain it was 5.1 per cent. The success of a new range of long-term savings products marketed by Ark Life also contributed to profits.

In the US division, fee income and higher levels of mortgage activity resulted in a 14.5 per cent jump in profits, to Ir£56.9 million. The largest profit increases were in the smallest division, Capital Markets, which contributed Ir£34.9 million to the overall total — a jump of 21.2 per cent. A significant rise in interest income by the treasury section, and better returns from equity markets, were also key features.



Tom Mulcahy, chief executive of Allied Irish Bank: double-digit profit growth across all divisions in the first half

For the first time profits from the John Govey group, which AIB acquired last year, were included in the accounts. A spokesman said the fund management group had "traded well during the period and its profit performance is well ahead of 1995". AIB said capital adequacy

remained strong, with the tier one ratio at 8.1 per cent, and the equity to assets ratio 4.8 per cent. The total capital ratio was 10.5 per cent. Although net interest income was up 4.5 per cent, to Ir£408.7 million, the interest margin at 3.45 per cent was down 21 basis points on the second half of 1995.

Looking ahead, Mr Culliton said that he expected Ireland's buoyant economy to fuel continuing strong loan demand, "although at a lower level than the first half". Economic upturns in both Britain and the US ensure underlying business trends there would continue to be positive, he added.

Phil Condit, Boeing's president and chief executive, said the deal will round out his company's strengths as a defence and space contractor. Among other prestige projects, Rockwell produces the B1 Bomber for the US Air Force, the main engines of the space shuttle, and global positioning systems for satellites. It also makes ballistic missiles and owns the technology of numerous other defence systems.

Rockwell sells two divisions to Boeing for \$3bn

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE consolidation of the US defence industry has taken a big step forward with the \$3bn purchase by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, of the defence and avionics businesses of Rockwell International (see Pennington, this page).

Boeing has been looking for an acquisition in the defence field for some time, after the collapse of merger talks with McDonnell Douglas several months ago. Lockheed Martin, the largest US defence company, was formed recently by the merger of two leading arms groups.

Deep cuts in the US defence budget since the end of the Cold War have obliged companies to join forces to fight for the remaining contracts on a stronger footing. Raytheon and McDonnell Douglas are also said to be in merger talks.

The purchase will not only enable Boeing to bid more aggressively for defence business, it will also enable it to bid for a larger share of the lucrative space station contract in which it is already the largest contractor.

Phil Condit, Boeing's president and chief executive, said the deal will round out his company's strengths as a defence and space contractor. Among other prestige projects, Rockwell produces the B1 Bomber for the US Air Force, the main engines of the space shuttle, and global positioning systems for satellites. It also makes ballistic missiles and owns the technology of numerous other defence systems.

Boeing is paying \$860m in stock, and further \$220m to wipe out world debt. The rest of Rockwell will be left with automotive, semiconductor and electronics businesses, taking it almost completely out of the defence industry.

The defence operations being bought by Boeing have sales of \$3.2 billion, compared with \$5.6 billion of sales by Boeing's own defence division. The combined workforce of the merged operations will come to about 50,000 people, but Mr Condit said there was little overlap between the businesses and he expected few job losses to result.

Rockwell said that, having sold its defence operations, its remaining businesses were free to develop into new areas of civilian application particularly electronics.

Misys doubles and orders push ahead

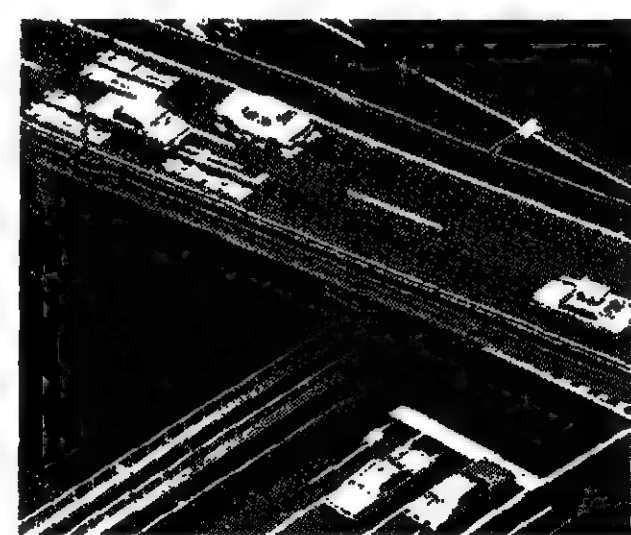
BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Misys, the banking and insurance software company, jumped 14p to 777p after it reported almost doubled pre-tax profits of £50.4 million in the year to May 31 and an order book already 25 per cent ahead.

The group, which bought its rival ACT Banking for £193 million in February last year, saw sales in its banking division leap from £46.5 million to £139.6 million, half the group total of £280 million (£153 million), Misys, now the world leader in banking software, with 30 per cent of the

global market, said it was in pole position to benefit from a single European currency, which would require wide-scale modulation of banking software in its core European market. Kevin Lomax, chairman, said Misys was a pan-European operation that would capitalise on the changes, even if Britain does not agree to monetary union.

The final was increased 0.87p to 6.69p, making a total of 10.66p — 15 per cent ahead of last year's total, and providing four times cover. It will be paid on October 7.



SKF breaks into Japanese Automotive Market

For the first time in its history, SKF will sell wheel bearings directly to a Japanese car manufacturer in Japan. Despite very strong Japanese bearing competition, SKF signed a multi-year contract with Suzuki to supply Hub Units. The Hub Unit, a concept developed by SKF, is a unitised assembly, lubricated and adjusted at the factory to reduce maintenance and installation costs.

Decisive factors in Suzuki's decision included SKF's reputation for dependable, high quality products as well as SKF's global production and service network. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in September this year.

THE SKF GROUP'S CONSOLIDATED INCOME after financial income and expense for the first half of 1996: 1 475 million Swedish kronor (1 866). Sales: SEK 17 528 m (19 487). Income after financial net for the second quarter: SEK 664 m (959), sales SEK 8 647 m (9 755). Fluctuations in exchange rates had a negative effect on sales, to the order of 9 per cent or approximately SEK 1 700 m.

In the North American market, SKF is continuing to increase its sales to the automotive industry. Following the decision to build a new plant in the United States for the manufacture of Hub Units, further contracts have been secured, including another large order for these products by the leading U.S. manufacturer of truck axles.

The European market, however which accounts for almost 60 per cent of Group sales, showed a continued weakening in the demand for rolling bearings. All major markets, with the exception of France, showed the same weak trend.

Growth remains good in Asia. SKF's sales to the aftermarket are developing positively. One customer segment where SKF is recording increasing sales is the manufacture of motorcycles and scooters. The Group supplies the market primarily from its European plants.

The SKF Group operating income after depreciation for the first six months of 1996: SEK 1 657 m (2 256). Financial net: SEK -182 m (-390). This improvement can be attributed mainly to a positive outcome from forward transactions made to cover currency flows.

Earnings per share after tax SEK 7.90 (10.85). Capital expenditures in property, plant and equipment SEK 1 099 m (934). At the end of June, the Group financial assets were SEK 3 660 (4 874) compared with SEK 4 035 m at the beginning of the year. The return on capital employed July 1st 1995 - June 30th 1996 was 17.0 per cent (17.0). Return on shareholders' equity 16.0 per cent (19.4). Group solvency 31.3 per cent (29.9).

For a copy of the half-year report, please write to SKF Group Communication, S-415 30 Göteborg, Sweden, or access the Internet: <http://www.skf.se>

AVERAGE RATE OF EXCHANGE
1996: 1 GBP = 10.28 SEK. 1995: 1 GBP = 11.68 SEK.

SKF

Abbey warns of mixed prospects

FROM EILEEN MCCABE, IN DUBLIN

ABBIEY, the Irish construction company, has given warning that prospects for the year ahead are mixed after a drop of more than 25 per cent in pre-tax profits, to Ir£6.2 million, for the year to April. A year ago, Abbey recorded profits of Ir£8.36 million.

Earnings per share were 11.17p, down from 15.08p. However, the dividend is up by 4.8 per cent, to 5.50p. Charles Gallagher, chairman, said the main reason for the profits setback was the performance of the plant-hire division, whose profits fell to Ir£460,000, from Ir£1.7 million.

"Trading since the year end remains disappointing and any early improvement in trading depends mainly on a

faster rate of UK economic growth," he said.

Housebuilding, with 314 sales in the UK and 100 in the Irish Republic, generated operating profit of Ir£4 million, on turnover of Ir£34.2 million. It experienced some difficulties in Britain, but conditions in Ireland were buoyant, Abbey said.

Mr Gallagher said: "Prospects for the year ahead are mixed. Strong growth in the Irish operation and improving conditions for UK housing will be tempered by the continuing difficulties facing our plant-hire activities. Overall, we are hopeful of resumed progress. In the medium term, widespread forecasts of accelerating UK growth are a source of encouragement."

Littlewoods creating 250 jobs

LITTLEWOODS, the family-owned retail and pools group, yesterday announced the creation of 250 new jobs in Sunderland to back the launch of its new direct home-shopping catalogue (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The jobs, which include part-time work, are in the ordering and customer-query arm of the Index Extra catalogue, and involve people handling telephone orders.

Index Extra, launched nationally last month, provides the same range of goods through catalogue sales and the chain of high-street stores. It is a key to Littlewoods' fight for market share in the increasingly competitive catalogue-shopping business.

Sainsbury to run Homebase alone

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY is to become sole owner of Homebase, its DIY subsidiary, by buying the minority shareholding of GIB, the Belgian retailing group, in a deal worth £77.5 million.

The companies have agreed that Sainsbury will pay GIB £65 million in cash. Homebase will also repay a shareholder loan of £12.5 million made by GIB. The deal is scheduled for completion on Tuesday.

GIB had been thinking of selling out since the £290 million purchase of Texas Homecare by Sainsbury last year diluted its 25 per cent shareholding. It would have had to invest a further £40 million to take its holding back up to 25 per cent.

Sainsbury said yesterday. GIB is understood to want to concentrate on its DIY and food retailing operations in continental Europe.

Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's deputy chief executive and chairman of Homebase, said: "The acquisition of the minority stake in Homebase will enable the Sainsbury group to benefit fully from the continued growth of Homebase and the exciting potential of converting Texas to the Homebase format."

Homebase, together with Texas, has a 12 per cent market share and more than 330 stores. Homebase was set up in 1979 with £250,000 from GIB and £750,000 from Sainsbury.

Royal Bank buys SG Warburg custody division

BY FRASER NELSON

THE ROYAL Bank of Scotland is to buy SG Warburg's custody division for up to £20 million, making the bank Britain's second largest custody holder with assets of £250 billion.

The Royal Bank, whose chairman is Lord Younger, is to house the acquisition in a new subsidiary called the RBS Trust Bank. Together with the bank's existing custody unit, it is believed to be the only service offering a complete one-stop shop portfolio of custody and investment services.

At present, the Royal Bank's £170 billion of assets under custody make it Britain's third largest custody holder

behind Barclays and the Midland Bank. With the Warburg acquisition, which brings assets of £80 billion under custody, the Royal Bank will overtake Barclays to become the sixth largest custody holder in the world.

The Royal Bank is to pay between £5 million and £20 million for the holding, pending a valuation and due diligence.

Tim Sykes, an analyst at BZW Securities, said the deal was good for both parties. He said: "The global custody market is for major players only. Either you're a giant, or you're not in it. There's no half way. Warburg obviously decided they were not going to dominate."

The RBS Trust Bank will have a staff of 1,200. The Warburg acquisition adds third-party retail fund administration to the Royal Bank's existing service, as well as a strong relationship with Mercury Asset Management.

The new bank will also operate an in-house trade union, where staff elect representatives without any external organisations.

The decision to de-recognise the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union has brought it under fire from the BIFU, which has accused it of a "divide and rule policy", which it says will strain industrial relations.



Lord Younger will see a new subsidiary set up

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Equities extend their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Yield	P/E
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COMMERCIAL						
INDUSTRIAL						
SAVINGS						
TRUSTS						
INSURANCE						
REAL ESTATE						
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TELEPHONE						
UTILITY						
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Law Report August 2 1996 Court of Appeal

Lender must prove particular loss for negligently given information

Bristol and West Building Society v Mothew (trading as Stapley & Co)

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Oton
[Judgment July 24]

Where a lender sued the solicitor who acted for both the borrower and the lender for negligently giving incorrect information, the lender had to prove that it would not have made the mortgage if it had known the true facts; but it was required to establish what it had lost as a result of the existence of a second charge.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal brought by the defendant solicitor, Anthony Paul Mothew, against the decision of Mr Justice Chadwick on July 27, 1995 affirming for different reasons the decision of a district judge giving summary judgment to the plaintiff, Bristol and West Building Society for £90,000 less the sums received by the building society on the sale of the property in question. The case was remitted for assessment of damages.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Glenn Campbell for the defendant; Mr Nicholas Patten, QC and Mr Timothy Higginson for the building society.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the appeal raised important questions of principle in relation to a claim by a lender to recover from the solicitor who was acting for both the borrower and the lender the loss arising from the borrower's subsequent default.

The collapse in the property market which accompanied the

recession at the beginning of the present decade caused mortgage lenders to suffer serious losses. Unable to recover their advances from the borrowers or by the enforcement of their security they sought to recover them from the valuers or solicitors on whose valuations or advice they had relied.

The defendant solicitor acted for Mr and Mrs Towers in the purchase of a property in Romford for £73,000 in August 1988. In accordance with the usual practice he also acted for the building society to which the purchasers had applied for an advance of £59,000 in order to finance the purchase.

The purchasers also arranged to transfer a small part of the mortgage on their existing property with Barclays Bank to be transferred to the new property by way of a second charge. The defendant was informed of the arrangements and gave an undertaking to hold the title deeds pending registration.

Unfortunately he either failed to appreciate that, although they related to old borrowing, they were a matter which he was required to report to the building society, or he had forgotten or overlooked them when he made his report.

The purchasers defaulted after making only small repayments and the building society enforced its security. The property was sold in February 1991 and realised a price of little under £33,000. The building society claimed to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction from the defendant, alleging breach of contract, negligence and breach of trust. The first two were admitted but the third denied.

It was the defendant's case that the building society would not have been concerned by the purchaser's proposal to grant a second charge to the bank if it had been disclosed to it in August 1988; that it would still have proceeded with the transaction; and that it would have suffered precisely the same loss in that event.

It was common ground in the court below that no damages would be recoverable at common law for breach of contract or tort unless the building society could show that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

The building society, however, submitted that the position was different in equity. It alleged that the defendant had committed a breach of trust or fiduciary duty, and submitted that common law principles of causation and remoteness of damages had no application in such a case so that it was not necessary for the building society to show that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

The district judge accepted those arguments and that was affirmed by the judge.

In the Court of Appeal when the case was first argued the critical question appeared to be whether the defendant was guilty of a breach of trust or fiduciary duty and if so whether the building society needed to prove that it would not still have proceeded with the transaction if it had been told of the facts.

However, after the case had been reserved, the building society informed their Lordships that it wished to resile from its con-

cession. Relying on the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Downs v Chappell* (1996) 3 All ER 344 the building society submitted that it was entitled to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction by way of damages for negligence at common law without having to establish that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

If correct, it submitted, that would be determinative of the case, and it would not be necessary for the building society to rely on any breach of trust or fiduciary duty.

The essential question was whether the building society was entitled to judgment for the sum claimed, and not merely for damages to be assessed. In respect of its common law claim, if so, then the building society did not need to establish that the defendant was guilty of a breach of trust or fiduciary duty.

That question depended upon an alleged difference between the tests of causation and remoteness of damage at common law and in equity. In a case of the present kind, however, two different questions of causation were involved and it was necessary to distinguish between them.

Where a plaintiff claimed that he had suffered loss by entering into a transaction as a result of negligent advice or information provided by the defendant, the first question was whether the plaintiff could establish that the defendant's negligence caused him to enter into the transaction.

If he could not, his claim failed. But even if he could, it was not evidence to be taken into account that the transaction caused him loss. He still had to show what, if any,

part of his loss was attributable to the defendant's negligence.

That was usually treated as a question of the measure of damages rather than causation, and for convenience his Lordship would so treat it, but it had to be acknowledged that it involved questions of causation.

In *Downs v Chappell* the relevant question was simply whether the plaintiff had entered into the contract in reliance upon the figures contained in an accountants' letter.

The judge had answered that question in the affirmative: the plaintiffs would not have entered into the contract if they had not been provided with the letter. The causal relationship between the accountants' negligence and the plaintiffs' purchase was established.

In the present case the building society's claim was not for misrepresentation.

Accordingly, questions of inducement and materiality were not relevant. Its claim lay in negligence, and the relevant concept was reliance. In considering the issue of causation in an action for negligence brought by a client against his solicitor it appeared from *Downs v Chappell* that it was necessary to distinguish between two different kinds of cases.

Where a client sued his solicitor for having negligently failed to give him proper advice, he had to show what advice should have been given and on a balance of probabilities that if such advice had been given he would not have entered into the relevant transaction or terms that he did enter into.

Where, however, a client sued his solicitor for having negligently

given him incorrect advice or for having negligently given him incorrect information, the position appeared to be different. In such a case it was sufficient for the plaintiff to prove that he relied on the advice or information, that is, that he would not have acted as he did if he had not been given such advice or information.

It was not necessary for him to prove that he would not have acted as he did if he had been given the proper advice or the correct information. That was the position in *Downs v Chappell*.

In the present case the building society made complaints of both kinds. In his Lordship's judgment, they were bound by *Downs v Chappell* to hold that the necessary causal link between the defendant's negligence and the mortgage advance was proved.

Damages remained to be assessed. The building society would not have to prove that it would not have made the mortgage advance if it had known the true facts but it would be required to establish what it had lost as a result of the existence of the second charge and the purchasers' indebtedness to the bank. It could maintain the money judgment which it had obtained below only if it could invoke equitable principles.

The judge found that, in the events which happened, the defendant committed a breach of trust by applying the mortgage advance in the purchase of the property; that he was accordingly liable to restore the trust property, namely, the £59,000 with interest less receipts; that no question of damages arose on terms that he did not compensate for loss arising; and that it was irrelevant whether, had

it been told of the position, the building society might still have chosen to make the advance notwithstanding the arrangements which had been made with the bank.

It was not alleged that the defendant deliberately concealed the arrangements which the purchasers had made with their bank from the building society or that he consciously intended to mislead it. Nothing in the present judgment was intended to apply to such a case.

His Lordship's observations were confined to the case like the present, where the provision of incorrect information by a solicitor to his client must be taken to have been done due to an oversight.

Before their Lordships, the defendant submitted that, while he was guilty of negligence and breach of contract, he was not guilty of a breach of trust or of fiduciary duty. It was convenient to take first the question of fiduciary duty, and then to consider the question of breach of trust.

Breach of fiduciary duty

If the defendant had been acting for the building society alone, his admitted negligence would not have exposed him to a charge of breach of fiduciary duty. Counsel for the building society accepted as much, but insisted that the fact that he also acted for the purchasers made all the difference.

His Lordship found that that argument ran into difficulties. The defendant was never in breach of the conflict rule. It was not alleged that he acted in bad faith or that he deliberately withheld information from the building society. His duty to the purchasers required him to do so.

Thus the judge's finding that the defendant was in breach of fiduciary duty could not be supported. It followed that it could not be sustained as a ground for holding the defendant to be in breach of a constructive trust of the mortgage money.

Breach of trust

In the Court of Appeal the building society put forward the argument that the defendant's instructions expressly required him to report the arrangements in question "to the society prior to completion". It was submitted that it made a condition of the defendant's authority to complete that he had complied with his obligation. Therefore he had no authority to complete.

His Lordship did not accept that. The defendant's authority to apply the mortgage money in the completion of the purchase was not conditional on his having first complied with his contractual obligations to the building society. It was not vitiated by the misrepresentations for which he was responsible but of which he was unaware, and was effective to prevent his payment being a breach of trust.

The appeal would therefore be allowed and the money judgments set aside. The judgments for damages to be assessed for breach of contract and negligence would remain undisturbed, but it did not follow that the building society would establish any recoverable loss.

Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Millett delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Wansborough Willey Hargrave. Bristol: Osborne Clark, Bristol.

Dominant motive relevant factor

Regina v Governor of Barmouth Prison and Another, Ex parte Dunalyi

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mrs Justice Ewbank
[Judgment July 4]

In determining whether or not extradition orders charged with a political character so as to preclude extradition under section 6(1)(a) of the Extradition Act 1989, regard was to be had to the motives behind the offences and where those were mixed the dominant motive should be the determining factor.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Mr Fayal Dunalyi for a writ of habeas corpus directed to the Governor of Barmouth Prison to bring up and quash a committal order made by Mr R. D. Barrie, Metropolitan Sidingway Magistrate, sitting at Bow Street, dated July 25, 1995 pending the signing of an extradition order requested by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr Mark R. v. Governor of Barmouth Prison, Ex parte Cheng (1993) AC 931 that to establish a political

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant, a prominent Kurd who had been granted political asylum in Germany, had been detained while on a visit to England in October 1994 and served with a notice of intended deportation.

The German Government requested his extradition on the basis that, as a leading member of a militant Turkish Kurd movement, he had organised a series of attacks on Turkish property in Germany.

The court accepted that the attacks had a threefold motive: to carry on the war with Turkey by attacks on Turkish institutions; to draw attention to the Kurdish cause and to force the German government to change its policy of support for Turkey.

Rejecting the argument that it was sufficient to show that a genuine and significant purpose of the offence was to change the policy of the requesting state, his Lordship said that it was clear by evidence to be a green although it was not deemed to be a green under the Act as appropriately

nature the only purpose in committing the offence had to be directed against the requesting state.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the doctrine of *Ex parte Dunalyi* was a doctrine of the House of Lords in *Secretary of State for the Home Department (The Times May 23, 1996)* [1996] 2 WLR 760, contemplating a mixed motive situation, concluded that the dominant motive determined the political nature of the offence.

Here the court was satisfied that the dominant motive behind the attacks was directed against the

Turkish government and not the requesting German government so that they were not political offences within section 6(1)(a) of the 1989 Act.

Not in requesting extradition, was there evidence that the German government was acting in bad faith or that the applicant would be prejudiced by reason of his political opinions from having a fair trial. Accordingly the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Winstanley-Burgess, Islington; Director of Public Prosecutions.

Green rights not lost

Regina v Suffolk County Council, Ex parte Speed and Another

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Oton
[Judgment July 4]

A failure to register a town green as common land under section 12(a) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 did not have the effect of extinguishing the customary rights over the land. Such land could subsequently still be registered as a town green although it was not deemed to be a green under the Act as appropriately

registered land was.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Millett, Lord Justice Oton and Lord Justice Chadwick) held on July 11 when dismissing, on other grounds, an appeal by David and Colin Steel against a decision of Mr Justice Crampton in which he dismissed an application for a writ of mandamus requiring Suffolk County Council to register land known as the People's Park, Sudbury as a town green.

Publican's domestic rent not deductible

McLaren v Mumford (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Rimer
[Judgment July 19]

Expenditure by a publican on rent for living accommodation that he was required to occupy as a term of his tenancy agreement with the brewery was not deductible in computing his profits chargeable to tax.

By virtue of section 74 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 the expenditure was not allowable as a deduction as it was not made wholly and exclusively for the purposes of the publican's trade.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Alexander W. McLaren, from a determination by Her Majesty's Commissioners upholding assessments to Schedule D income tax in respect of his profits for the years from 1992 to 1994.

Mr Robert Grieson for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that in 1991 the taxpayer had signed a

tenancy agreement with a brewery by which he became tenant of the Duke of Marlborough public house in Hackney, London.

The only conscious motive in his mind when he signed the agreement was to provide himself with a trade to earn his living. The agreement required him to reside at the premises at all times.

The premises comprised the parts used for the purposes of the public house and separate accommodation for the taxpayer's personal and private use. The taxpayer owned a house in Broadstairs that he would visit to collect mail and see that it was in order.

The commissioners concluded that although the only conscious motive in the taxpayer's mind when he signed the agreement was to provide himself with a trade, nevertheless the purpose of the expenditure was also to provide him with personal residential accommodation.

They therefore concluded that the expenditure on rent had a dual purpose and held that it was not wholly and exclusively laid out or expended for the purposes of the taxpayer's trade as a publican and

hence was not wholly allowable as a deduction in computing his Case I profits. They directed an adjustment to be made to reflect a disallowance of one-sixth of the expenditure.

The taxpayer's argument was that as the tenancy agreement made his occupation of the premises compulsory, to disallow even one-sixth of his expenditure was unfair. He should, he said, have been allowed the whole of it.

He placed heavy reliance on the central finding by the commissioners that the only conscious motive in his mind when he entered into the agreement was to provide himself with a trade to earn his living.

Thus, he argued, he was not seeking any collateral benefit for himself. He already had his own house and had to use the residential accommodation in the premises because the tenancy agreement obliged him to do so.

Mr Grieson submitted that the question raised by the appeal had been conclusively decided in the purpose and held that it was the House of Lords in *Russell v Town and County Bank Ltd* (1888) 13 App Cas 418.

Mr Brennan, relying on *Mason v Tison* (1980) STC 284, and *Mellish v Drummond* (1883) 2 AC 581, submitted that the expenditure served a dual purpose, both private and business.

The private element of the taxpayer's expenditure, he said, was not incurred for the purpose of earning the receipts of his business, but served the non-business purpose of satisfying his ordinary human needs. It was thereby disqualified from being deducted, and that was so regardless of the taxpayer's motive when he signed the agreement or the fact that the tenancy agreement obliged him to occupy the premises.

The decision in *Russell* was of no assistance in the context of the appeal: the issue with which that case was concerned was of an entirely different nature. Mr Brennan's submissions were to be accepted.

Solicitors: A. J. Bolton & Co. Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Correction

In *R v Burston* (The Times July 30) leading counsel for the appellant was Mr Peter Feinberg, QC.

European Law Report

Economic considerations irrelevant when designating wild bird protection areas

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: The Port of Sheerness Ltd, Intervener

Case C-44/95
Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Sautet, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Molinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray, P. Jann and M. Wathelet
[Opinion March 21]
[Judgment July 11]

The Secretary of State for the Environment was not entitled to take account of economic requirements when designating a special protection area for wild birds and defining its boundaries.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty on questions referred by the House of Lords, by order of February 9, 1995, on the interpretation of provisions of Council Directive 79/409/EEC of April 2, 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ 1979 L103 p1).

The Medway Estuary and Marshes, an area of wetland of international importance, were used by wildfowl and waterfowl as a breeding and wintering area and a staging post during spring and autumn migration, and supported breeding populations of the avocet and the little tern, which were listed in annex I to the birds directive.

Lappel Bank, an area of intertidal mudflat adjoining the Port of Sheerness and lying geographically within the bounds of the Medway Estuary and Marshes, shared several of the important ornithological qualities of the area as a whole and was an important component of the overall estuarine ecosystem.

The Port of Sheerness, the fifth largest port in the United Kingdom for cargo and freight handling, was a flourishing commercial undertaking and a significant employer in an area with a serious unemployment problem. The port planned extended facilities for car storage and other purposes in order better to compete with continental ports offering similar facilities.

Lappel Bank was the only area into which the port could realistically envisage expanding.

In 1993 the secretary of state decided to designate the Medway Estuary and Marshes as a special protection area, but to exclude Lappel Bank from that area on the ground that the contribution that expansion by the port into the area of Lappel Bank would make to the

local and national economy outweighed its nature conservation value.

In the course of proceedings in which it was sought to quash that decision on the ground that, by virtue of the birds directive, the secretary of state was not entitled to have regard to economic considerations when classifying a special protection area, the House of Lords referred three questions to the Court of Justice.

Article 1 of the birds directive provides: "This directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the member states."

Article 2 provides: "Member states shall take the requisite measures to maintain the population of the species referred to in article 1 at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements."

Article 3 provides: "(1) In the light of the requirements referred to in article 1, member states shall take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in article 1.

"(2) The preservation ... of ... habitats shall include primarily the following measures: (a) creation of protected areas ...

Article 4 provides: "(1) The species mentioned in annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. In this connection, account shall be taken of various criteria ... Member states shall classify in particular the most suitable territories ... as special protection areas ...

"(2) Member states shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in annex I ... To this end, member states shall pay particular attention to the protection of ... wetlands of international importance ...

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

"The first question was whether a member state was authorised to take account of the economic requirements mentioned in article 2 of the birds directive when designating a special protection area and defining its boundaries ...

that article 3 of the directive imposed obligations of a general character, namely, to ensure a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the birds referred to in the directive, while article 4 contained specific obligations with regard to the species of birds listed in annex I and the migratory species not listed in that annex.

According to the United Kingdom Government and the Port of Sheerness Ltd, article 4 could not be considered in isolation from article 3.

They argued that article 4 provided, in relation to certain species of particular interest, for the specific application of the general obligation imposed by article 3, and that since the latter provision allowed account to be taken of economic requirements, the same should apply to article 4(1) and (2).

That argument could not be upheld. Article 4 laid down a protection regime which was specifically targeted and reinforced both for the species listed in annex I and for migratory species, an approach justified by the fact that they were, respectively, the most endangered species and the species constituting a common heritage of the Community.

While article 3 provided for account to be taken of the economic requirements mentioned in article 2 for the implementation of general conservation measures, including the creation of protection areas, article 4 made no such reference for the implementation of special conservation measures, in particular the creation of special protection areas.

Consequently, having regard to the aim of special protection pursued by article 4 and the fact that, according to settled case law, article 2 did not constitute an autonomous derogation from the general system of protection established by the directive, it must be held that *Santola Marshes*, paragraphs 17 and 18 that the ecological requirements laid down by the former provision did not have to be balanced against the interests listed in the latter, in particular economic requirements.

It was the criteria laid down in article 4(1) and (2) which were to guide the member states in designating and defining the boundaries of special protection areas, and it was clear from *Santola Marshes*, paragraphs 26 and 27, that those criteria were of overriding importance.

The second question was whether article 4(1) or (2) allowed a member state, when designating a special protection area and defining its boundaries, to take account of economic requirements as constituting a general interest su-

perior to that represented by the ecological objective of the directive.

In Case C-57/89 *Commission v Germany* (Leibrecht Dykes) (1991) 13 ECR I-2609, paragraphs 21 and 22, the Court held that the member states could, in the context of article 4(4), reduce the extent of a special protection area only on exceptional grounds, being grounds corresponding to a general interest superior to the general interest represented by the ecological objective of the directive.

It was held that economic requirements could not be invoked in that context.

It was also clear from *Santola Marshes*, paragraph 19, that, in the context of article 4 considered as a whole, economic requirements could not in any way correspond to a general interest superior to that represented by the ecological objective of the directive.

"(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary in the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon ... shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives ...

"(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature ...

The scheme implemented by Wrekin District Council applied to disabled persons and to men over 65 and women over 60.

The plaintiff, Stanley Charles Attkins, aged 63, was refused concessions under the council's scheme, and brought proceedings against the council and the Department of Transport in which he claimed that he had been discriminated against on the ground of his sex.

The court referred the question, *inter alia*, whether the council's scheme came within the scope of article 3 of the Council Directive 79/7/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L268).

Article 3 provides: "(1) Statutory schemes which provide protection against the following risks: sickness, invalidity, old age, accidents at work and occupational diseases, unemployment, (b) social assistance, in so far as it is intended to supplement or replace the schemes referred to in (a),"

entitlement to old age and retirement pensions, and an order made under section 93(7)(f) defined additional classes.

It was for local authorities to define, among those classes, the persons in whom their scheme applied.

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The court referred the question, *inter alia*, whether the council's scheme came within the scope of article 3 of the Council Directive 79/7/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L268).

Article 7 of that directive provided that the obligations under article 6(2) and (4) of it were to replace any obligations arising under the first sentence of article 4(4) of the birds directive in respect of areas classified pursuant to article 4(1) or similarly recognised under article 4(2) of that directive.

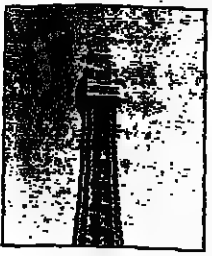
Article 6 of the birds directive provided: "(2) Member states shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats ...

"(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary in the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon ... shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives ...

"(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature ...

Thus, the imperative reasons of overriding public interest which were referred to in article 6(4) of the birds directive, being carried out in accordance with the criteria permitted under article 4(1) and (2) of the birds directive.

It followed that, even under the birds directive, the classification of sites



■ SNAPSHOT

The final day of our series on top tourist attractions finds that Blackpool Tower sure isn't what it used to be



■ THEATRE

Surprising clash of cultures: a Romanian troupe brings *Murder in the Cathedral* to London

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ PROM

John Pickard's impressive new work *The Flight of Icarus* has its first London performance



■ JAZZ

Piano man Mose Allison shows why he is still the world's hippest 'Certified Senior Citizen'

Michael Henderson takes a daytrip to the 'Versailles of working-class England': Blackpool Tower

Strand that time forgot

You reach it through a small aquarium which stocks a few unremarkable species of fish, and leave it by a noisy entertainment parlour where bored stallholders may try to sell you a fluffy bear. But nobody goes there to buy an ursine toy, or to gawp at something with fins. In their thousands they come to Blackpool still, and most of them go up the Tower.

To be absolutely precise, they visit something called Tower World, which is how "Britain's greatest seaside attraction" presents itself. That is Blackpool all over, talking itself up like a boastful schoolboy, but it happens to be a fact. The tower, for 102 years the tolerant guardian of a naughty town, is one of Britain's top ten tourist attractions.

Take a rather rickety lift, scramble up to the viewing gallery, and the Irish Sea is under one nostril, the Winter Gardens under the other. According to the tower's brochure, this experience is the highlight of any Blackpool holiday, and the claim may not be far off. At least up there the holidaymaker is 518ft 9in above the dowdy streets.

It is an unlovely town. The fairest minds must concede that. But the fairest minds do not go there, favouring instead Umbria and the Dordogne, where towers look different. Mucky old Blackpool can only parade what Philip Larkin, lamenting the passing of common civic values, called "a cast of crooks and tarts". It must be the only town in the world where pubs employ bouncers on their doors at lunchtime.

If every kingdom needs a palace, then the tower is the Versailles of working-class England, a Sans-Souci of

proletarian tat. So why do people keep coming? They do not come as they used to, in the 1930s and 1940s, when Frank Randle was the king of the piers and the ties of industrial urban life were more binding. But the fact that they come at all is a social phenomenon.

A stroll along the Golden Mile, where stars of *Coronation Street* hang from every lamppost, reveals a vista of unremitting grimness. This is where people come to drink in the Merrie England bar, and croon along in Nellie Dean's.



They can bop the night away in the "world famous" Palace nightclub (in Manhattan, apparently, they talk of little else) or feast in one of the seafood nosheries where you get not only chips with your Fleetwood haddock but also "garnish", a real treat.

Blackpool is a simulacrum of an English life that no longer exists. Yates's Wine Lodge, near the north shore, used to be the only bar in England that served champagne from the tap. Now it is much like any other bar in this town, designed to cater for as many young people as possible.

It was not always like this. When the tower was built in 1894, at a cost of £45,000, it was in response to M Eiffel's construction in Paris. To the fathers of northern towns, these buildings symbolised civic pride: witness the magnificent town halls of Rochdale and Bolton. A hundred

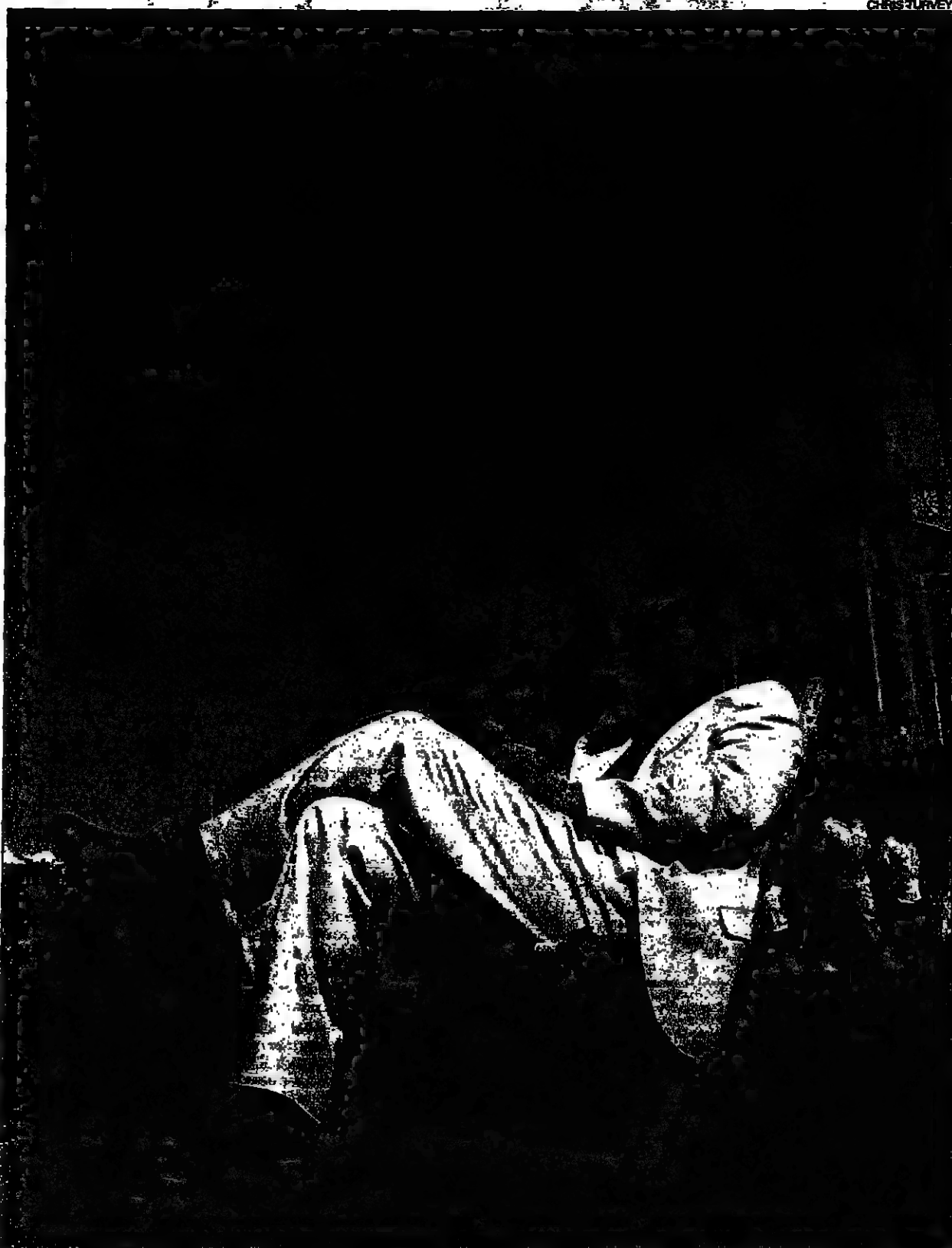
years on, with unremittingly ugly shops and restaurants beneath it, the tower highlights civic indifference. Five miles down the road, Lytham St Anne's maintains its Edwardian grace.

Caught in this clash of styles, Blackpool has become increasingly surreal. Amid all the junk, you can spot two elderly couples on the floor of the Tower Ballroom, dancing gently to an organist piping the overture to *Die Fledermaus*. This little scene belongs to a more innocent world, when Reginald ("The Organist Entertains") Dixon would rise with the famous Wurlitzer for the benefit of hundreds of dancers on the same floor.

Peter Chelsom, the filmmaker, grew up in the town and caught something of this surrealism in his 1995 movie *Funny Bones*. The best moment showed an impresario auditioning dozens of bizarre turns. Such goings-on would not have been out of place in the films of another seaside, Fellini.

Blackpool has never aspired to class. It always been proud of its vulgarity. The problem is, its vulgarity is no longer funny. Where a great comedian such as Ken Dodd once filled theatres, there are now only third-raters. On the streets you do not find many people smiling. Like all places where "having fun" is compulsory, the atmosphere is joyless.

Appearing on the South Pier this summer is "Chubby" Brown, and the theatre advises people to stay away if they are easily offended. It is a better joke than any Brown could tell. Nobody who is easily offended is ever going to visit Blackpool, not even to scale that huge Edwardian vinegar pot.



Wish I wasn't here: once-flourishing Blackpool is now "a simulacrum of an English life which no longer exists"

Serving a slice of the blues

THE world's hippest Certified Senior Citizen, Mose Allison has been content to make his way as a cult artist for the best part of 40 years. His records, a unique melange of blues, disorienting piano chords and mordant satire, have never sold by the lorry-load. But discerning musicians have always sought him out.

Pete Townshend, Ray Davies and Bonnie Raitt have all declared their admiration for him. Next month, on September 23, Van Morrison will go a step further when he releases an entire album of Allison tunes, with the white-bearded composer making a guest appearance on a couple of tracks.

In the meantime Allison is settling into a residency at the newly renamed Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho. With the new name comes a new look, the old smoky basement ex-

Mose Allison Pizza Express

panded to at least twice the size and given a tasteful facelift.

The surroundings may be glossier but Allison's performance, prefaced by another of his dissonant instrumental set-pieces, remained as uncompromising as ever.

Although there is always ample humour on display — in the sardonic twists of *I Don't Want Much* or the marital infidelities of John D. Loudermilk's *You Call It Juggin' (I Call It Runnin' Around)* — his sets are less a series of belly laughs than a dispassionate rummage around America's bars and suburbs.

Allison reminds me of a musical Raymond Carver, evoking the eccentricities of life in the slow lane through a handful of carefully sculpted phrases. His gruff, understated vocal style — closer to back-porch conversation than singing — enhances the storytelling mood.

With so much chatter emanating from the back of the room, some of the fine detail went astray: Allison's lyrics demand close attention. His two British partners — bassist Roy Babbington and percussionist Paul Clarvis — coped manfully with the idiosyncratic shuffle rhythms of the arrangements.

Clarvis had a particularly demanding role, since Allison frowns on the use of a backbeat and all the high-hat ticks that make a drummer's life easier.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

CLIVE DAVIS

Unholy clash of symbols for a political martyr

In recent years the Romanian theatre has celebrated its country's liberation from the Ceausescu by putting on *Richard III*, *Macbeth* and Jarry's satire on power run amok, *Ubu Roi*. But an Aeschylean tragedy by a high-Anglican poet about the power of a 12th-century martyrdom to redeem and refresh a derelict Church? That, weirdly, is what Art-Inter Odeon has brought from Bucharest to Islington. On the face of it, *Murder in the*

Cathedral has as much resonance in Eastern Europe as *The Vicar of Dibley* would have in Tipton.

But wait. T. S. Eliot wrote the piece mid-way through the Decade of the Dictators, intending it as propaganda for the spirit at a time when plenty of shrill, combative voices were crusading for fascism, communism and other materialist causes. When one of Thomas à Becket's murderers asks us to applaud him for helping to achieve "a just

Murder in the Cathedral Almeida, NI

subordination of the pretensions of the Church to the welfare of the State", Eliot may have had in mind Hitler's interference in ecclesiastical affairs in Germany. Certainly, he said that he wanted "to bring home to the audience the

contemporary relevance of the situation".

Since I am about as fluent in Romanian as I am in Bulgarian, I cannot be wholly sure how Mihai Maniutiu and his company have responded to Eliot's injunction. But it is clear that they are less interested in the theological questions raised by martyrdom — can a man empty himself of human desire and resign himself wholly to the divine will? — than in its political implications. For them, Becket is to be revered because he resisted the pressures of the powerful and managed to maintain integrity to the end.

These Romanians do not give us all of Eliot, then, but they give us some of him; and in the refreshingly fierce, marvellously startling style we have come to expect of them. Eliot's chorus consists of "women of Canterbury" who have become dull, humdrum and spiritually lazy in the absence abroad of their archbishop. Here they are bundles of black rags and blue netting who look as if they are on the

run from a massacre. And round the neck of their crophaired, wild-eyed leader are chains, put there by a demonic figure in black who prowls the stage looking and sometimes acting rather like a gloating Jack the Ripper.

The virtual omnipresence of these two — the one seeking succour from Marcel Iures's Becket, the other luring him towards destruction — would have surprised Eliot. All the same, the play follows its usual course, though with obvious verbal cuts and visual twists. Becket's tempters mostly come in pairs, and look either like Persian dancers or

Beirut bohemians superciliously fanning themselves with their berets. Pools of blood appear on the stage. The chorus dons eastern masks and plays exotic pipes, skiffles and drums. Before jerking awake and killing Becket, the leather-clad knights fall prone to the ground and are covered in sand by the chorus.

Why? Coming without my symbolism phrase-book, I missed some of the production's ramifications. But did that matter when there were moments that made the RSC's recent revival of the play seem dreadfully bland? Above all, there was Iures, his weather-

beaten, knobby face and rough-ornamented gown creating a wonderfully unpretentious impression, his sobs and diffident ties bringing out something that English revivals usually overlook: the fear, the vulnerability and the human weakness of Becket the martyr. That the corpse of such a man should end up sending ever Jack the Ripper scuttling for the exit says much about both recent Romanian history and, yes, the resilience of *Murder in the Cathedral* in the 1990s.



As the Romanians do: Art-Inter Odeon's Dorin Andone, Marcel Iures, Ionel Mihailescu

Cleared for take-off into the sun

WIDELY regarded as one of BBC National Orchestra of Wales's most successful commissions, John Pickard's *The Flight of Icarus* received its first London performance at the Proms on Wednesday night, amply fulfilling its promise. It is in a single movement, and scored for a large orchestra which makes its presence felt from the opening bars. With strings and wind in whirlwind motion, and frenzied tuckets on three trumpets, the introductory section suggests, in the composer's words, the "ascent from the labyrinth" (ie, the aeronautical escape of Daedalus and his son Icarus from King Minos). This is not simplistic scene-painting, however, and if the middle section vividly evokes the exhilaration of flight, it also projects a sense of triumph over natural laws, of the high idealism of human endeavour.

Pride comes before a fall, though, and

BBC NOW/Wigglesworth Albert Hall/Radio 3

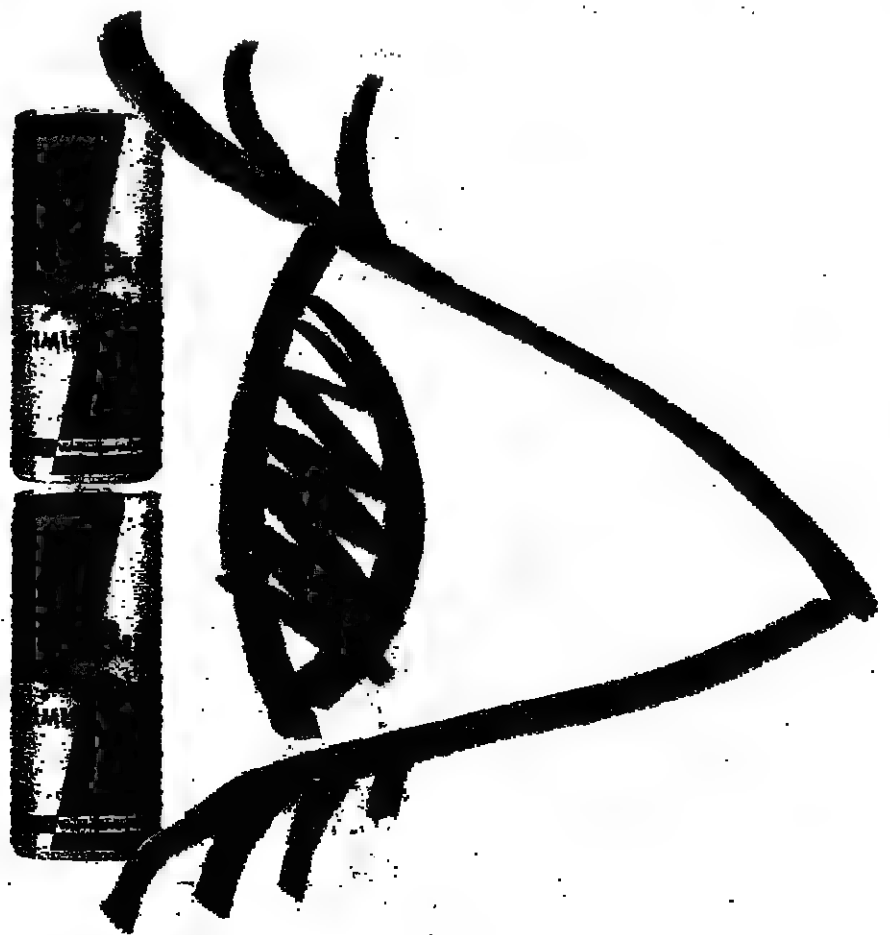
suddenly catastrophe looms out of a clear blue sky. Icarus falls hubristically to his death, and his father flies on into the setting sun — an image that Pickard recreates with his sonorous spaced brass and full-textured strings. Pickard's score remains airborne over its 20-minute span rather more proficiently than Icarus, leading the ear and imagination with impressive resourcefulness.

A high-risk strategy of another kind was adopted by Steven Isserlis in Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No 1. His wispy tone and minimal vibrato in the

slow movement had an appropriately eerie quality, but it played havoc with conventional norms of intonation. His third-movement cadenza continued in musing mode, until the finale restored the vehemence of the opening movement.

A streak of Slavic melancholy lingered in Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2. This was a beautifully executed performance by the orchestra, playing more confidently than ever under its new music director, Mark Wigglesworth. I admired the control of his Rachmaninov, the rise and fall of tension, the refusal to indulge in sentimentality. But I could have done with more raw passion, perhaps even a touch of vulgarity. Still, this was a commendably thoughtful, and often affecting, attempt at a far from straightforward score.

BARRY MILLINGTON



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP

CHOICE 1

Colin Davis conducts the European Union Youth Orchestra

VENUE: Tomorrow at the Albert Hall

CHOICE 2

The Barbican launches a season in praise of Hammer Horror

VENUE: Today at the Barbican Cinema

THE TIMES ARTS

POP 1

Robbie Williams plays it safe with the release of his first single, the George Michael standard *Freedom*

POP 2

The best that drum'n'bass has to offer, courtesy of the multi-artist album collection *Platinum Breakz*

NEW RELEASES: David Sinclair takes that; plus the latest albums

Robbie on a free ride

Blind faith: Robbie Williams avoids some awkward questions by plumping for George Michael's *Freedom*

SINGLE

ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Freedom (Chrysalis/EMI FREE 1)

The debut single by Robbie Williams is a bit of a tease. His charisma is proved beyond doubt and we already knew he could carry a tune thanks to his leading role on *Take That*. But can he write? And if so, what has he got to say for himself? The canny choice of the old George Michael song *Freedom* enables Williams neatly to sidestep such thorny issues for the moment, while giving him a lyric tailor-made to his circumstances. "Heaven knows I was such a young boy I didn't know what I wanted to be. I was every little hungry schoolgirl's pride and joy, and I guess that was enough for me." Now, of course, he has his freedom, which enables him to import fashionable elements of Black Grape and the not-so-fashionable Primal Scream into a stylish gospel-dancefloor arrangement that sounds markedly different to *Take That*, but otherwise not especially distinctive. Tactically, *Freedom* is a sound opening shot, but musically it is a holding operation. The real test is yet to come.

Beat goes on and on

ALBUMS

METALHEADZ

Platinum Breakz (Nir/London 528 783)

ANYONE wondering why there is no drum'n'bass or hardcore jungle album on the Mercury Music Prize shortlist need look no further than *Platinum Breakz* for the answer. Organised and partly produced by the guru of drum'n'bass, Goldie, *Platinum Breakz* is a multi-artist collection which offers a selection of the best sounds being produced by the cream of this underground phenomenon, including such top-rated names as Phoebe, Alex Reece, Dillinja and Doc Scott.

Like Goldie's own, much fêted album *Timeless*, it is a time-consuming experience (more than two hours) that combines many fascinating sounds and groundbreaking rhythmic techniques with in-

terminable stretches of slack, some of it verging on the unlistenable.

The numbers all last between six and nine minutes, and nearly every one kicks off with an unidentified female voice ad-libbing over a vacuously atmospheric intro. This gradually evolves into a minimalist rhythm track that proceeds like a runaway train, but sometimes, as in *Your Sound* by J Majik, comprises little more than an extended drum (machine) solo.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

PICTURE SALE: 1000 Modern British Paintings and Watercolours. £10 - £500. Estate of Lucy Carrington. Western Union 16 August. DUNCAN CAMPBELL, 15 Theobalds St. W8 0HT. 0171 487 8888.

ROY MILES GALLERY: Major Russian paintings for sale. 29 Brunel St. W1 0AB. 0171 485 4747.

Summer Exhibition: WHEN ENGLISH ART WAS YOUNG. PARKIN GALLERY, 24-26 Regent St. W1 0AB. 0171 235 8144.

OPERA & BALLET

Glyndebourne Festival Opera with The London Philharmonic. Tonight, Mon. 5, Wed. 7, Fri. 5.5pm. Emmonds, Sat. 3, Tues. 6 at 5.00pm. Orygha, Sun. 5 at 4.15pm. Thurs. 8 at 5.15pm. Antibes. For possible return tickets call 01723 813813.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 334 4000 to Box Office & Study info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Ballet. Tonight 7.30 (Last Night). Tomorrow 2.00 & 7.00 (Last performance). SWAN LAKE.

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POP 3

Even after 18 years in the business, OMD curator Andy McCluskey still gets worked up about his music



POP 4

Paul Weller is just one of the many artists heading for the great outdoors to make music this summer

THE TIMES ARTS



JAZZ

Saxophonist David Sanchez moves gracefully between two genres on his fine new release, *Street Scenes*



MONDAY

Scottish test: do Oasis have what it takes to bring 40,000 punters to Balloch Country Park?

Paul Sexton finds the man from OMD in reflective mood as he awaits the release of his new album

Will you still need me when I'm 38?

Several people would catch the sharp end of Andy McCluskey's tongue if he ever got to meet them. One of them is himself as a sulky but successful youth.

As the curator of OMD, originally *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark*, McCluskey is pondering the hit-laden history of the band which has completely filled the past 18 years of his life. And the memory of the lanky, earnest young man who started gyrating on national television in 1980 is not comfortable.

"I was such a self-righteous little git when I was 20, I could slap myself around," he says. He would tell his younger self: "Loosen up Andy, enjoy it. This is the first time you're on *Top of the Pops*, the first time you're in the *Top Ten*."

And why did he behave so seriously back then? "We were so determined to be free of pop cliché and keep our feet on the ground that we were really boring," he explains. "We didn't allow ourselves to enjoy it half as much as I wish we had."

Millions of record sales later, McCluskey continues to trade under the OMD banner despite the departure in 1989 of his professional partner, Paul Humphreys. And now he is preparing for the release of an impressive new album called *Universal*.

The sound, with its trademark wistful synthesizers, is instantly recognisable as OMD. But the album also has

a remarkable vibrancy for the product of an artist in his late thirties.

"I feel as strongly about this record as I used to feel about records I made 15 years ago," says McCluskey. "I'm ready to fight for this. If anybody tells me it isn't good or my video isn't great, I'm ready to punch their lights out."

Such a pugnacious approach should not be misinterpreted. Much of McCluskey's conversation, and some of the

"We didn't let ourselves enjoy it as much as I wish we had"

lyrical content of his album, is imbued with the mood of self-assessment of a 37-year-old asking himself whether it is quite proper still to be making pop records.

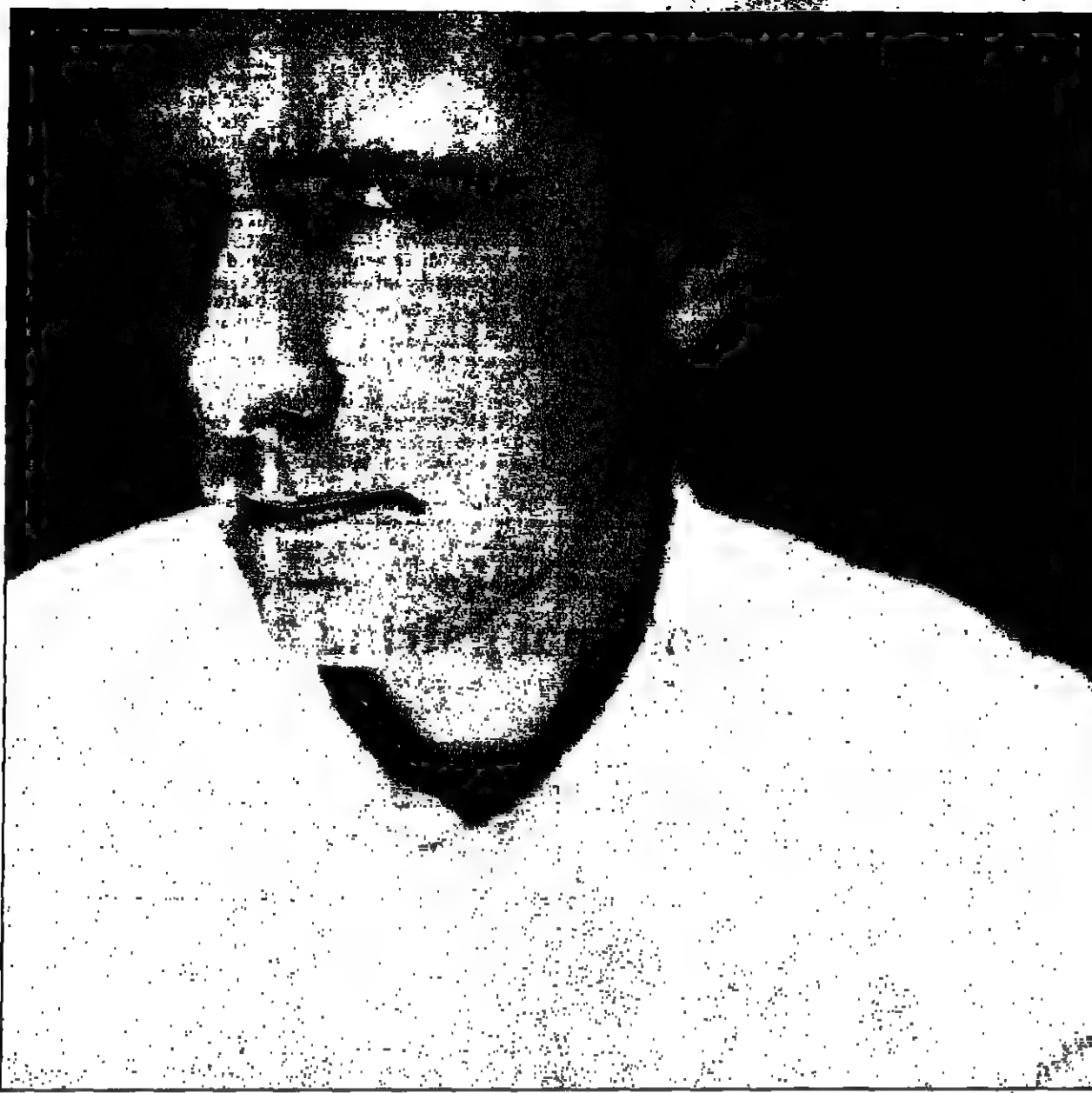
"I have a memory of myself in my late teens as a typical angry young man with lots of naive energy and determination, hating almost everything, in love with electronic music and the energy of punk," he says. "I wanted everybody who was over 25 to clear out of the way and let the new music through. Now I think 'God, I'm 37'. There's an element of 'I don't want to keep making records if people don't want them'."

McCluskey still lives in the Wirral, the Liverpool suburb where he was born, and gives every impression of leading a well-adjusted life free from the ego malfunctions associated with ageing rock stars. He meets you himself, makes the tea himself. But he is under no illusions about the motivation to succeed that drives him.

"All this nonsense about 'it's my art, I just do it for myself'... if that's the case, fine, play your acoustic in your bedroom for your dog or your girlfriend. Nobody releases records without having some deep, searing, dysfunctional ego problem that they need satisfying," he says. "It gets worse when you've had a hit. Then you need more because you're a sad, insecure person who needs external gratification."

"It's not the money. That's nice but it's not the main reason. It's exposing your emotional self — if people don't like that, you wish you hadn't done it. So if people don't want to buy my records, I don't want to do it. That makes sense, doesn't it?"

After the departure of Humphreys, a copious helping of external gratification came McCluskey's way with OMD's 1991 album *Sugar Tax*, which turned into the most successful record of his career, selling some two million copies around the world and producing the huge hits *Sailing on the Seven Seas* and *Pandora's Box*. After that, 1993's *Liberator* was a comparative underachiever.



At 37, Andy McCluskey is still making albums and still feels a compulsive craving for public approval of his work

"*Liberator* sold nearly half a million copies worldwide but I didn't have a hit single," says McCluskey. "Having had those since my first album, I can't abide not having hit singles."

It is highly unlikely that he will have to suffer such indignity with *Walking on the Milky Way*, which comes out next week as the trailer for

Universal. It is as instantly endearing a pop single as you could wish for. "It's about growing up," says McCluskey. "I think everybody at some time in their life says 'oh, this is where I am. How did I get here? Where is my beautiful house...?' He laughs at the borrowed Talking Heads lyric. "It's stocktaking of me and my life."

Pondering his own musical survival, McCluskey can spy at least one positive thing about an industry that measures out fame by the quarter hour. "The way OMD sounded in 1981 was certainly different to almost everything else in the chart," he says. "You can argue that because it was a new sound, that was what attracted people. Maybe

that was part of it. But disregarding the novelty factor, they were actually good songs — you can still listen to them. "Then it's all down to the quality of your songwriting, because you've got no new style to sell, no new face to entice people. And I firmly believe that I can still write a belting tune."

Swing shift

DAVID SANCHEZ

Street Scenes (Columbia 485137 2) SAXOPHONIST David Sanchez's solo work skilfully blends Latin rhythms with fierce-swinging jazz and *Street Scenes* lives up to its name by operating confidently in both genres. Thus an almost Dexter Gordon-like swagger will be succeeded by a burst of R&B-type "dirty" tenor over popping Latin percussion, and a wailing soprano ballad by a gritty alto/tenor duet with guest Kenny Garrett.

The graceful acumen which enables Sanchez and his classily exuberant pianist, Danilo Perez, to move easily between their two main influences is epitomised by a second duet with Garrett, *The Elements*, in which a perfect blend is achieved between hard-driving swing and infectious Latin pep. Sanchez's album is that rare animal: a Latin-jazz amalgam which will be equally acceptable to aficionados in each camp.

SCOTT HAMILTON

My Romance (Concord CCD-4710)

ON THIS Concord album, the American tenor man Scott Hamilton teams up with the triumphantly adventurous pianist, Norman Simmons, bassist Dennis Irwin and drummer Chuck Riggs, but the album's defining sound results from the blend of the front-line instruments. Hamilton has brought in the cultured Joel Helleary on trombone to share solo duties.

The material is mainly customary Hamilton fare — standards, the odd original blues, medium-tempo lopes through familiar chord sequences — but a couple of tracks are subjected to intriguing arrangements which suggest that the smooth-toned tenor man is seeking to vary his winning formula a little.

CHRIS PARKER

When God comes to the gig

If a big outdoor show really takes off, life is never the same again

The summer is good for growing things. Fruit, trees, insects, late-night drinking beer-guts — all that nature business. But summer's Growing Speciality, is audiences. Whereas in the cold and driven, spring we all huddled in 2,000 capacity cocoons, numbers weakened by colds, flu, and the horrific idea of leaving the house during night-time hours when *Police Camera! Action!* is on, the summer brings with it a surge of growth hormones so powerful that we burst from the empty shells of the Forum, the Apollo and the Civic Hall, and make our way, 50,000 strong, into the Great Outdoors for big summer music.

Paul Weller, Oasis and Pulp are all staking out acres of *Merrile England* this month, liberally scattering it with bars, letting lesser bands play during the sunstroke hours, and finally striding onstage when the sun has fallen far enough for those follow-spots to light the lead singer holy. And the best of times are truly the Best Of Times — when an outdoor gig comes together, when the band are so on top of things that all the audience wants to do is get on top of each other, there is nothing to beat it.

Combined with the smell of

camp-fires, the taste of cider with moths in it, and bumping into the boy who, at school, was voted Most Likely To Succeed At Everything running a face-painting stall near the toilets, life can seem perfect. But sadly, these occasions are all too rare.

"Think of it from the bands' point of view — they have usually been touring for a solid year. Yesterday was a headline slot at a festival in Sweden. Tomorrow is a headline slot in Dublin. They have played the songs so often that

they have become conversations and we know the punch-line. However God-struck and inspired a band are when they conceive a song, they can never hope to recreate that visceral urge at every gig.

So most gigs are a live jukebox — professional renditions of hits, misses and favoured album tracks, big flashing lights and the opportunity for the audience to sing itself hoarse and burn its fingers to a crisp, on shoddy lighters during the ballads.

However, every audience

secretly hankers for passion so intense it becomes destructive — stage-wrecking, stage-diving, fire, riot, flood — this is why we go to gigs. Every ticket purchased is a wish that this will be the gig where the band implode, because rock mythology only has time for the most driven of moments.

When bands do implode — Nirvana at Reading in 1993, Kurt Cobain in a blood-stained smock, entering in a wheelchair and leaving after smashing up stumps, guitars and drums to hysterical feedback: Manic Street Preachers' last British gig before Richey Edwards disappeared, wrecking £7,000's worth of gear and leaving the stage with nosebleeds caused by the sheer noise they had made — then the audience is truly happy.

Our squeals and screams are part of the soundtrack to something our children will speak of with envy. In some way — with audience voodoo power — we made it happen.

Of course, if the band do not feel like injecting each other with cyanide and dying on stage while the PA plays *The Marseillaise*, all is not lost. Even if a band have already played 100 gigs that year, that still breaks down as 50 enjoyable, professional concerts, 25 appalling hangover gigs, and 25 hello-mother-my-life-has-changed occasions.

When Pulp played Glastonbury in 1995, no auto-destruct was needed — had Jarvis ripped the set list in half at the end, it would have seemed a bit extreme. They simply played with passion, wit, love, hunger and grace.

Similarly, when Oasis played Maine Road a few months back, nothing really happened. Noel and Liam did not fight. Liam and the audience did not fight, even the expected ruck between the half of the audience who were in Fred Perry shirts versus the other half in Stussy shirts did not happen. Oasis were, simply, the most fantastic two hours happening anywhere in the world that night. And that is all that this month's big gigs really need.

● Oasis's *Loch Lomond* and *Knebworth* dates are sold out. Pulp play Chelmsford on August 17 (sold out) and Victoria Park, Warrington on August 18 (tickets still available). Paul Weller plays Highland Park, Chelmsford on August 18 (tickets available)



CAITLIN MORAN

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Moseley Shoals... Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 3 The Smurfs Go Pop!... Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 4 Recurring Dream... Crowded House (Capitol)
- 5 Falling Into You... Celine Dion (Epic)
- 6 (What's The Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 7 The Score... Fugees (Columbia)
- 8 Wildest Dreams... Tina Turner (Parlophone)
- 9 18 Til I Die... Bryan Adams (A&M)
- 10 Older... George Michael (Virgin)

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STEVENS Costello & The Attractions

OUT THIS WEEK

Beautifully arranged, with strong moving, this has to be one of the best albums in many years. *The Sunday Telegraph*

Costello, he's a bloody laugh in his own right. *Loaded*

...magnificent. *Q*

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GOLF

Three-colour trick causes cards chaos

FROM MEL WEBB IN GOTHENBURG

FOR a while there was more than a small element of farce surrounding the first round of the Volvo Scandinavian Masters yesterday. It was a slapstick effort that turned part of the day into a sort of *Carry On Up The Scoreboard* — and it depended on the colour yellow, or red, or blue, or any combination of the three.

The hues in question were those adorning the bibs worn by the caddies, and with the scoring system set up to recognise players' scores by the colour of the bibs, what later became a great lark all stemmed from wrongly-coloured bibs being given out to many of the caddies.

Add the fact that a good number of the volunteer scorers on the Forsgården course plainly had not the faintest idea what some of the players looked like, and the potential

for a comic disaster became more obvious. There were mistakes in 25 of the first 26 three-balls on the scoreboards. Confusion reigned.

Among several howling errors was that Colin Montgomerie, tall, fair and well-built, was mistaken for David Feherty, shorter, dark and wiry, with the result that they were given each other's scores. It would have suited Feherty very well — he had a 75. Montgomerie a 69 — but the fact that Montgomerie's caddy was wearing Feherty's man's blue bib meant nothing in the recorder's cabin.

Montgomerie, it goes without saying, knew exactly what he had scored and, in accordance with the new precepts of his professional life, which could be summed up in the phrase "more work equals more money," he was



Montgomerie was happy with his 69, three behind the leading pair, on a day of scoreboard confusion

smiles, was happy enough with his three-under-par round, which left him two shots behind Santiago Luna and Thomas Bjorn, the joint leaders.

"If I put in everything I can into my practice, it will get rid of any disappointments and frustrations I might feel," he said. "If I do that, I'll be quite happy with myself, no matter what I score. It's important to have self-belief — after all, I

realise I am good at this game." Such modesty — but there is no denying that he is right.

John Daly was in trouble again. He returned a 69, then had a two-stroke penalty imposed on him for brushing away a tiny pile of sand in front of his ball on the fringe of the 9th green; he did not know that the only place that would have been permitted was on the green itself.

Father and son eye chance of final pairing

MANY moons ago, when Ian Richardson was a talented young professional, he sought the help of John Jacobs, for the unusual reason that he was desperate to lose length (Patricia Davies writes). Even now, at the age of 50, long reinstated as an amateur, he has power to spare and has yet to use a wood in five rounds of the English Amateur Championship at the Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell.

Richardson, from Burghley Park, in Lincolnshire, putted well yesterday, too, and was six under par in overcoming Gary Wolstenholme, the Mid-Amateur champion. He also proved too good for Lew Watcham, of Bedfordshire.

However, there is yet another Richardson progressing through the other half of the draw: Carl, Ian's 19-year old son, defeated Robert Chattaway and Matthew

Cryer, to keep alive hopes of a final that would be a first in the history of the championship.

But before father can meet son over 36 holes tomorrow, there are still two matches to be won by each of them. The immediate hurdles are John Pounder, of Yeovil, for Richardson senior and Justin Rose, the 16-year-old boy-wonder, from Hampshire, for Richardson junior.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gibbs ready to make curtain call

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE was an example last Saturday of Scott Gibbs at his best in rugby league. At short range, the London Broncos' defence had more chance of catching a runaway truck. It was a treasure trove and a fitting farewell if Gibbs had opted to bow out then.

The postscript is tonight at Castleford. Gibbs, officially, is a Swansea rugby union player again, two years after his departure from St Helens's for his rugby league namesake on Merseyside. St Helens managed to persuade him, despite his new £200,000 four-year contract with Swansea, to turn out one more time.

Gibbs is a reassuring presence tonight in a back line missing Alan Hunte and possibly Paul Newlove, should the Great Britain centre not recover from a painful toe injury. Gibbs's contribution will be recognised by a winner's medal in the post, provided St Helens maintain their narrow lead of the Stanes Super League.

"I wouldn't be going unless I thought St Helens could win the Super League," Gibbs, who leaves on good terms, said.

Bradford Bulls' search for a successor to Brian Smith as coach has ended on their doorstep. Matthew Elliot, Smith's popular Australian assistant, will be confirmed today as coach for next season. Smith leaves for Parramatta after the play-offs next month.

ASCOT

THUNDERER
6.00 Umberston. 6.30 Tautan Boy. 7.00 Queen's Mousehole. 7.30 Kaysee. 8.00 Silca's My Key. 8.30 Lieling.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW NO ADVANTAGE

6.00 BUCKINGHAM PALACE APPRENTICE

HANDICAP (£4,061: 1m 40) (11 runners)
1 (2) 0421 ACTION JACKSON 7 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (8) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 (11) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
9 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
10 (10) 0400 TROULETTE 74 (R) 5 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

6.30 INVISHIRE GROUP HANDICAP

(£5,680: 1m 20) (12)
1 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
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8 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
9 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
10 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
11 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
12 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

7.00 INVISHIRE MAIDEN STAKES

(£2,400: 1m 20) (5)
1 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

7.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE JOCKEYS

ASSOCIATION RATED HANDICAP (£6,518: 7f) (7)
1 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
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6 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

8.00 PEREGRINE SECURITIES NURSERY

HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,578: 7f) (8)
1 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

8.30 CRANBOURNE CHASE MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £5,394: 1m 40) (5)
1 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 (1) 0421 ALANUS 27 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Prescott, 5 winners from 30 runners, 20.0%, Lady Hennes, 8 from 82, 14.9%, J. Davies, 4 from 21, 19.0%, R. Bates, 6 from 48, 12.5%, L. Curran, 3 from 28, 10.7%, J. Gosden, 19 from 124, 15.3%
JOCKEYS: P. Eddery, 34 winners from 244 rides, 13.9%, T. Quinn, 25 from 185, 13.5%, only qualifiers.

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER
6.15 Uncle George. 6.40 Children's Choice. 7.10 Mousehole. 7.40 Arabian Heights. 8.10 Shouk. 8.40 Royale Figurine.

GOING: GOOD DRAW NO ADVANTAGE

6.15 RO-TUCK FOR SCANIA SELLING STAKES

(£3,720: 1m) (10 runners)
1 1008 DANCING LADY 18 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 2118 HAWMAN 6 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 2138 PERILOUS PLEIST 17 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 0008 MEDIANE 24 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 0018 MISS LAUGHTON 24 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 0048 INDIAN RHAPSODY 42 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 0008 CRYSTAL PAST 17 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 0008 KUNIA 12 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
9 0008 ONLY 9 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
10 0008 UNCLE GEORGE 18 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

6.40 LUCINDA STOPPORD SACKVILLE LADIES

HANDICAP (£3,720: 1m 40) (7)
1 2432 BELMONTA 9 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 000 MURPHY 25 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 2022 BO WITH THE WIND 11 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 004 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 94 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 0406 ELA MAN HONIA 13 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 000 STRAITS LEGACY 33 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

7.10 VARDY CONTINENTAL HANDICAP

(£6,004: 6f) (8)
1 1025 RUSSETT BAY 15 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 0315 GOLDEN FORD 14 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 310 DINK DICK 24 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 0582 FAME AGAIN 7 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 2125 MOUSEHOLE 48 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 2321 BAYN 14 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 0021 ROBBELON 6 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 008 SAFETY AREA 35 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

7.40 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR PRIZE

HANDICAP (£5,754: 1m 20) (14)
1 1054 DANCE KING 21 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 0611 ELASTICITY 16 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 0556 ELASTICITY 16 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 0001 KING OF VISION 22 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 1233 AMBROSETRUS 14 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 000 MADRAM 50 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 050 FARELAME 46 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 0005 SOUTH EASTERN FROST 30 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

8.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND BEACON

MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,581: 7f) (9)
1 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
6 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
7 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
8 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
9 000 JAMBOREE 1 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

8.40 DEREK JONES COMMERCIALS FOR SCANIA

FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,394: 6f) (5)
1 000 ROYAL FUGURINE 21 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
2 2121 WATCH ME 43 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
3 000 MIND FOR THE HILLS 13 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
4 000 RHYTHM 45 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53
5 000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (F) 9 McMan 4-9-12 (46) C West 53

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D. Loder, 20 winners from 99 runners, 20.2%, J. Gosden, 54 from 82, 14.9%, J. Davies, 4 from 21, 19.0%, R. Bates, 6 from 48, 12.5%, L. Curran, 3 from 28, 10.7%, J. Gosden, 19 from 124, 15.3%
JOCKEYS: J. Stock, 7 winners from 54 rides, 12.9%, R. Bates, 28 from 225, 12.4%, M. Hills, 28 from 225, 12.4%, only qualifiers.

Morny next for unbeaten Zamindar

ZAMINDAR, Zafonic's full-brother, remains unbeaten after two outings with an all-the-way victory in the group three Prix de Cabourg on the opening day of the Deauville Festival yesterday. Ladbrokes cut the colt to 8-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas.

Although most observers considered that yesterday's victory was workmanlike, rather than brilliant, the Andre Fabre-trained colt was never in danger of defeat and had 2½ lengths to spare over Dyhlam Diamond.

Thierry Jarnet, the winning jockey, said: "Zamindar showed plenty of courage and did just what I wanted. He is the obvious favourite for the Prix Morny, but Grant Pritchard-Gordon, representing Khaled Abdulla, put yesterday's race into perspective. He said: 'Zamindar has had two easy races now. The Morny will be the real test.'"

The group one Prix Morny, which Zafonic won in 1992, takes place at Deauville on Sunday August 18.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Goodwood

Going: good to firm
2.15 (1m 8f) 1. BENATON (P. Eddery, 8-2 fav), 2. Mental Pressure (R. Darley, 11-1), 3. Arnhem (S. Doyle, 12-1), 4. ALDO RAN 13-2, 5. Neros, 6. Jazz King (4th), 7. Shalini, 8. Oniro River, 9. Gumbo (8th), 10. Marous, 11. 2nd-Ye-Mou, 12. Highly Phantom (5th), 11 ran 1-1/4, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd,

CRICKET

Hayhurst at end of road as Somerset take action

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

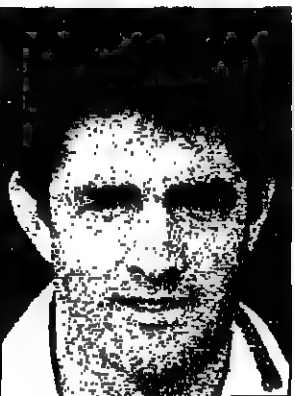
TAUNTON (first day of four: Hampshire won toss; Somerset have scored 412 for six wickets against Hampshire)

COUNTIES too often duck the tough decisions, but Somerset were not. They made the decision to sack Hayhurst yesterday, making political intrigue out of a sensitive yet straightforward selection issue. Andy Hayhurst, the club captain, was stood down from the side an hour before the start against Hampshire. He may not play at this level again.

The official reason for Hayhurst's demotion is his form which, with only two championship scores above 15 this summer has, unarguably, been dire. Suspensions both in the dressing-room and around the Taunton ground, however, ran far deeper and the handling of the matter seemed needlessly heavy. Hayhurst may be under pressure to resign the captaincy but, last night, he stressed he had no intention of doing so.

To add to the drama, his late replacement in the side, Marcus Trescothick, responded with 178, the highest score of his career. It was an impressive piece of batting by a young man who should have been given a regular place this season. The fact that he has not, within a team selected by Hayhurst and Peter Bowler but not by the director of cricket, Bob Cottam, undoubtedly helped to bring the leadership issue to a head.

Hayhurst was called in for an early morning meeting with Brian Rose, once the county captain and now their chairman of cricket. It was his decision to omit Hayhurst and, while insisting that the Oval on Wednesday had no bearing, he did not pretend it had been easy.



Hayhurst: dire form

"It was a big shock to Andy and I feel very sad for him," Rose said. "We all have to make some tough decisions and I wish I didn't have to do this, but I honestly believe it is in the long-term interests of the club."

The long-term future of Hayhurst is unclear but, by applying for the vacancy as cricket secretary of Lancashire last winter, he was tacitly admitting that his playing days are almost over. He has made only 224 runs this season, averaging 18.66, and he will play in the second XI as from Monday. He seems certain to be replaced as captain, though whether it is by Bowler, who took over yesterday, remains to be seen.

"This has all been done in a rush and we must live with the decision for a while to see how it pans out," Rose said. "We gave more selection responsibility to the captain and vice-captain this year and whether that is the right system, I don't know. From now on, we need to get the youngsters performing well."

In part, this was achieved at a stroke. Restored to the opening role he enjoys, Trescothick batted for five hours, hitting 32 fours in a poised and attractive innings. It is three years since his debut but he is still only 20 and Somerset must back him with a long run in the side.

Hampshire, fielding a raw attack still missing Connor and Benjamin, were donated two early successes by rash strokes, one of which cost Bowler his wicket before he had scored. But a green pitch, preferred by Bowler to the groundsman's original choice, offered little assistance on a day of batting domination.

Trescothick, playing only his sixth championship game of the summer, added 154 for the third wicket with Harden and 51 for the fourth with Parsons. He played a full range of shots and, when the ball began to turn, for Udal, he demonstrated the soft-handed timing that brought him to the county's attention.

For once, Shane Lee was overshadowed, making only 26 before being caught on the boundary, but by the time Trescothick was caught at slip Somerset were in firm control. Turner and Rose, with a rapid half-century, took them past 400 and they are well placed to follow up their win over Yorkshire last week.



Wells forces the ball through the leg side during his double century against Northamptonshire yesterday

Leaders aided by rising Wells

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Leicestershire have scored 364 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire)

WHEN Vince Wells scores a century, it is invariably a large one. In three consecutive matches this season he made 200, 201 and 197, two of these innings in the championship, one in the NatWest Trophy, and all of them compiled with the authority of one whose standing in the game rises inexorably. Yesterday he struck an unbeaten, career-best 202, which was of inestimable worth to the joint championship leaders.

For Leicestershire had been put in on a pitch the hue of lime green and, Simmons apart, possessed nobody else capable of mastering the Northamptonshire attack. In the course of his innings, Wells reached 1,000 runs for the season for the first time in his career. He exemplifies the adage that an English batsman does not reach maturity until he is 30.

He and Simmons, who made 261 in his only previous innings against Northamptonshire, put on 152 in 38 overs. The decision to field, taken by Fordham in Bailey's absence, was an understandable one. Yet the pitches here, as at Northampton and Derby, are not always all they look. Ambrose was unable to gain any life in movement. Only Curran, who took the first two wickets, bowled with any zip.

Ambrose, who fields at first slip these days, held two low catches with a nonchalant height. The second was to account for Macmillan, one of two wickets Snape took in his first over, which was rather later in the day than he might have envisaged. Embury remains the first-choice spinner and might yet do so for some while.

There was little help for either of them. Their concern, at this stage, was to contain Wells, who collected his runs efficiently all round the wicket. Not a great many of his strokes remain in the mind's eye, but that could be said of several good batsmen. Wells reached his double century in the closing overs, having struck 30 fours and a six off 292 balls and preserved his wicket for the morning.

There will have been some anxiety in the England Under-19 ranks at tea yesterday, before a fifth-wicket stand of 101 between Ben Hollis and David Sales restored some parity in the first NatWest under-19 Test match. The home team, led by Gareth Barry in the absence of Alex Morris, appeared to have won an important toss, but declined to 103 for four after 34 overs in a match disrupted by rain.

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four: England Under-19 won toss; England Under-19 have scored 213 for six wickets against New Zealand Under-19)

There will have been some anxiety in the England Under-19 ranks at tea yesterday, before a fifth-wicket stand of 101 between Ben Hollis and David Sales restored some parity in the first NatWest under-19 Test match. The home team, led by Gareth Barry in the absence of Alex Morris, appeared to have won an important toss, but declined to 103 for four after 34 overs in a match disrupted by rain.

Hartley comes to Yorkshire's aid

By SIMON WILDE

EASTBOURNE (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Sussex have scored 312 runs behind Yorkshire)

A RAMPAGING eighth-wicket partnership of 151 in 93 minutes between Richard Blakey and Peter Hartley, both of whom made their best scores of the season, pulled Yorkshire out of trouble at the Saffrons yesterday with all the resourcefulness of aspiring championship winners. Hartley added gilt to the lily by removing Hall and Lewry, the nightwatchman, as Sussex stumbled to 33 for two by the close.

Hartley, who has not allowed his benefit to prevent him making several important contributions on the field, top-scored in Yorkshire's total of 345 with a bright and breezy 89 that occupied only 76 balls and contained two sixes and 16 fours. Coming as it did after Yorkshire had crept uncertainly to 150 for seven, it was an innings that changed the chemistry of the day.

Among the suffering bowlers was Ed Giddins, finally named yesterday as the Sussex player who had failed a random drugs test two months ago. In identifying Giddins, the Test and County Cricket Board charged him with using a prohibited substance and bringing the game into disrepute. He will face the board's full disciplinary committee on August 19. He remains free to play county cricket in the meantime.

Giddins was hoicked unceremoniously over mid-wicket for six by Hartley, who also drove Law over the long-on boundary during his third half-century of the season. Giddins was more subdued than his partner in what was Yorkshire's highest ninth-wicket stand since 1935, but not much. He hit one six and 12 in his unbeaten 80 which lasted 114 balls.

Under this fierce assault, the Sussex bowlers, previously disciplined, lost their length and some of their spice. During the morning, admittedly under heavy cloud cover, they made the ball swing and had Yorkshire on the rack. Vaughan, Byas and Moxon were all bowled, although they might not have been had they been on the front foot.

Bevan, given an early reprieve by Speight in the gully, briefly threatened to bludgeon his side out of trouble before he was dismissed in peculiar circumstances. In attempting a pull against Giddins, he was struck by the ball on the chin, and under the initial impact kicked his stumps.

McGrath and White began the rebuilding with a careful stand of 90 before Drakes, whose final figures of five for 99 were his best for Sussex, removed both during a spell of three wickets in 11 balls.

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 311 for six wickets)

IT WAS Ladies Day at Canterbury. So what with all the ladies in those lovely hats, a phalanx of distinguished visitors — spearheaded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the former Archbishop of Canterbury — and Kent, unbeaten in the championship, it would have been difficult for anyone unconnected with the county to steal the scene. Graeme Hick, though, accomplished it with some ease. Emerging from the slough of despond that was for him the Lord's Test, Hick showed how well he is suited to the county game. Steadily, surely and sometimes brutally, he moved

on to 148 before being run out. After McCague had missed him on 16, from a difficult chance off his own bowling, no other form of dismissal seemed likely. At ease with all the bowling, he made his century from 150 balls during three hours and 20 minutes.

That Hick was comfortable with himself was made glaringly apparent following his own escape. Headley tested him with two bouncers. Both were pulled with great power, through mid-wicket. No more attempted bouncers: instead, Kent settled for pegging back Worcestershire, chipping away after Hick and Speight had put on 160 for the fourth wicket. But, after Hick, Kent would have settled happily for removing six batsmen before close of play.

Philip DeFreitas captured five wickets in an innings for the first time this season as Derbyshire, still very much in the championship hunt, took control against Gloucestershire at Derby yesterday.

Only Matthew Windwood, with 76, offered lengthy resistance as Gloucestershire were bowled out for 217, which increased their miserable tally of batting points to 14 in 11 games. With Windwood pushing a wayward Dominic Cork, they reached 114 for three before DeFreitas caused a rapid decline in their fortunes.

After losing two early wickets to Courtney Walsh, Derbyshire recovered through a partnership of 90 between Kim Barnett and Dean Jones and, at tea for four, are 51 behind.

Ashley Metcalfe is within nine runs of his first championship century for Nottinghamshire at Worksop, where Glamorgan restricted them to 268 for five. The former Yorkshire player has so far hit 14 fours and a six.

Chris Lewis, who is hoping to prove his fitness to the England selectors while captaining Surrey against South Africa at the Oval, was upstaged by Mark Patterson. An Irish player on trial who took six for 80 as the touring side were dismissed for 379.

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Departure of Carr new blow to Middlesex

By PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four: Middlesex won toss; Essex have scored 232 runs behind Middlesex)

MIDDLESEX, who were already going through a difficult period of transition, suffered another setback yesterday when John Carr announced that he is to retire to take up a new position as cricket operations manager with the Test and County Cricket Board.

How big a loss that will be was immediately emphasised when Carr, captaining the side while Mike Gatting recovers from knee surgery, had to call on all his operational skills to engineer a recovery after Middlesex had lost their first two wickets without a run on the board against a resurgent Essex, who are beginning to make the championship pacesetters look over their shoulders.

He made a pretty good job of it. Pooley emerged from his lean spell to join Carr in a third-wicket partnership of 106 and then Brown demonstrated his fighting qualities once more by batting through 40 overs for an unbeaten 64, inspiring enough resistance from a lengthy tail for Middlesex to reach 264.

Carr, 33, whose father, Donald, was the first TCCB secretary, will become head of their cricket department on October 1, effectively replacing Tim Lamb on his promotion to chief executive.

Middlesex's present fragility was quickly exposed when Lloy's early swing did for Weekes and Ramprakash in his first two overs. Fortunately, Pooley revealed signs of returning form with seven fours in his 50 and Carr showed that he is still fiercely committed to the cause by surviving two difficult chances to make 60, including 11 fours, in three hours.

Both of them fell to catches at second slip by Gooch and Middlesex were slipping back into trouble when Wellings missed a hook against Lloy and had to retire with a cut above the left eye which needed a couple of stitches.

Brown, however, spent long enough in the batting ring before deciding to concentrate on a career in cricket not to be deterred by things like that and Wellings returned to prove that he had not lost his nerve.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v **GLAMORGAN** (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss; Nottinghamshire have scored 268 for five wickets against Glamorgan)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
P R Pollard b Watson 34
R J Robinson b Maynard b Watson 43
W M Moon b Metcalfe b Croft 26
A Metcalfe not out 21
P Johnson b b Gibson 7
C L Carns b Gibson 38
M N Bowen not out 22
Extras (b 13, nb 9) 22
Total (no wicket, 101 overs) 268
G W Hogg, K P Evans, R T Bates and J A Afford to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-97, 3-132, 4-162, 5-259
BOWLING: Watson 23-1-38-2, Gibson 23-8-62-2, Croft 25-12-50-1, Butler 13-1-56-0, Kendrick 18-7-41-0

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, A W Evans, M P Maynard, P A Carey, G P Butler, O D Gibson, R D S Croft, N M Kendrick, T C P Metcalfe, S L Watkin
Extras (b 13, nb 9) 22
Total (no wicket, 101 overs) 268
G W Hogg, K P Evans, R T Bates and J A Afford to bat

SOMERSET v **HAMPSHIRE** (first day of four: Hampshire won toss; Somerset have scored 412 for six wickets against Hampshire)

SOMERSET: First Innings
M H Llewellyn c Ayres b Boff 13
M E Trescothick c Keogh b Boff 178
P D Bowler c Ayres b Mibum 40
R J Hardon c Keogh b Udal 54
R A Parsons c Ayres b Stephenson 30
S Lee c Kendall b Stephenson 26
T J Turner not out 25
G D Ross not out 25
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 2, nb 18) 27
Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 412

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

DERBY (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss; Derbyshire have scored 217 runs behind Gloucestershire)

GLoucestershire: First Innings
N J Turner b b Malcolm 0
M G N Windwood c Keogh b DeFreitas 76
D DeFreitas 25
T H C Horlock b Dean 27
M A Lynch b Dean 10
M W Alayne c Cork b DeFreitas 10
A Symonds c b Keogh b DeFreitas 15
R P Davis c Keogh b DeFreitas 16
A M Smith c Adams b Cork 16
J Lewis c Jones b DeFreitas 17
C A Walsh not out 18
Extras (b 6, nb 12) 27
Total (66 overs) 217

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-61, 4-114, 5-129, 6-162, 7-181, 8-182, 9-194

BOWLING: Malcolm 13-3-38-2, Cork 17-2-72-1, DeFreitas 26-10-72-5, Dean 10-2-29-2

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett b b Alayne 65
A S Robins c Cork b Walsh 0
C J Adams b Walsh 15
D M Jones not out 38
T J G O Gorman b Symonds 21
G Cork not out 1
Extras (b 8, lb 4, nb 14) 26
Total (4 wickets, 37 overs) 186

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-29, 3-126, 4-155
BOWLING: Walsh 13-3-63-2, Smith 7-0-33-0, Alayne 9-2-71-1, Lewis 6-2-20-0, Symonds 2-0-11-1

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4
Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Kent v Worcestershire

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss; Worcestershire have scored 311 for six wickets against Kent)

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings
T S Curtes c Fulton b McCague 6
W P C Weston c Hooper b Headley 18
G A Hill not out 148
T M Moody c Fulton b Eatham 11
P R Spring b Eatham 71
V S Solanki c Fulton b Patel 12
S J Rhodes not out 16
S R Lampert not out 16
Extras (b 5, lb 4, nb 18) 27
Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 311

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-59, 3-108, 4-266, 5-278, 6-284

BOWLING: McCague 21-7-11-1, Headley 25-9-44-1, Eatham 20-8-38-2, Fleming 6-1-18-0, Patel 6-5-31-1, Hooper 3-1-12-0, Long 1-0-6-0

KENT: T R Ward, P Fulton, N J Long, C L Hooper, M V Fleming, M A Eatham, J J Walker, I B C Ward, D W Headley, M J McCague, M M Patel

Bonus points: Kent 2 Worcestershire 3
Umpires: H D Bird and J W Holder

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

LEICESTER (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Leicestershire have scored 364 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire)

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
V J Wells not out 202
D J Macdonald c Ambrose b Curran 23
B F Smith c Ripley b Curran 9
A Hobbs c Curran b Ambrose 19
P V Simmons b Snape 76
G J Macmillan c Ambrose b Snape 25
P A Nixon c Fordham b Embury 18
P Parsons b b Snape 0
A R Parnon not out 0
Extras (b 10, w 1) 11
Total (7 wickets, 104 overs) 364

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-96, 3-137, 4-289, 5-291, 6-348, 7-361

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-6-35-1, Taylor 15-1-56-0, Curran 12-1-50-2, Capel 10-2-45-0, Embury 21-3-57-1, Penberthy 14-3-33-0, Walton 3-0-18-0, Snape 12-0-42-3

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: A Fordham, J N Snape, T C Walton, K M Curran, D J Capel, M B Lloy, A Penberthy, J E Embury, D Ripley, J P Taylor, C E L Ambrose

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4 Northamptonshire 3
Umpires: R Julian and J D Bond

Middlesex v Essex

LORD'S (first day of four: Middlesex won toss; Essex have scored 232 runs behind Middlesex)

MIDDLESEX: First Innings
P N Weekes c Robins b Lloy 0
J C Pooley c Gooch b Lloy 50
R R Ramprakash b b Lloy 66
J D Carr c Gooch b Cowan 19
P Wellings c Grayson b Williams 64
R R Brown not out 27
J P Hewitt c Lloy b Cowan 27
R L Johnson c Robins b Cowan 5
R A Pay c Such b Cowan 2
R C Fraser c Procter b Lloy 2
P C R Tufnell c Such b Lloy 22
Extras (b 6, nb 18) 22
Total (94.4 overs) 284

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-106, 4-136, 5-184, 6-212, 7-234, 8-242, 9-258

BOWLING: Lloy 24-11-47-4, Williams 20-4-78-1, Lloy 15-5-34-1, Cowan 21-2-74-4, Lloy 14-9-14-0, Such 2-0-9-0

ESSEX: First Innings
G A Gooch not out 11
A P Grayson not out 15
Extras (b 4, nb 3) 16
Total (no wicket, 8 overs) 32

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0

BOWLING: Fraser 4-0-13-0, Johnson 4-0-13-0

Bonus points: Middlesex 2 Essex 4
Umpires: B Leach and B J Meyer

Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan

WORKSOP (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss; Nottinghamshire have scored 268 for five wickets against Glamorgan)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
P R Pollard b Watson 34
R J Robinson b Maynard b Watson 43
W M Moon b Metcalfe b Croft 26
A Metcalfe not out 21
P Johnson b b Gibson 7
C L Carns b Gibson 38
M N Bowen not out 22
Extras (b 13, nb 9) 22
Total (no wicket, 101 overs) 268
G W Hogg, K P Evans, R T Bates and J A Afford to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-97, 3-132, 4-162, 5-259
BOWLING: Watson 23-1-38-2, Gibson 23-8-62-2, Croft 25-12-50-1, Butler 13-1-56-0, Kendrick 18-7-41-0

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, A W Evans, M P Maynard, P A Carey, G P Butler, O D Gibson, R D S Croft, N M Kendrick, T C P Metcalfe, S L Watkin
Extras (b 13, nb 9) 22
Total (no wicket, 101 overs) 268
G W Hogg, K P Evans, R T Bates and J A Afford to bat

Sussex v Yorkshire

EASTBOURNE (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Sussex have scored 312 runs behind Yorkshire)

YORKSHIRE: First Innings
M D Moxon b Lewry 2
M P Vaughan b Lewry 1
D Byas b Drakes 1
M G Bevan b Keogh b Giddins 34
A McGrath c Salebury b Drakes 41
C White c Speight b Drakes 47
R J Bailey not out 47
D Gough b b Drakes 4
P J Hartley c Speight b Drakes 89
C W M Silverwood b Salebury 12
R D Stamp b Giddins 5
Extras (b 1, lb 12, w 1, nb 21) 35
Total (88 overs) 345

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-12, 3-22, 4-55, 5-145, 6-148, 7-150, 8-301, 9-322

BOWLING: Lewry 17-4-54-2, Drakes 27-5-88-3, Giddins 19-2-76-2, Law 9-0-61-0, Salebury 17-11-42-1

SUSSEX: First Innings
C W J Avey not out 13
J D Hall c Stamp b Hartley 6
J D Lewry b b Hartley 13
Extras (b 1) 1
Total (2 wickets, 12.2 overs) 33

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-12, 3-22, 4-55, 5-145, 6-148, 7-150, 8-301, 9-322

BOWLING: Lewry 17-4-54-2, Drakes 27-5-88-3, Giddins 19-2-76-2, Law 9-0-61-0, Salebury 17-11-42-1

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J D Hall c Stamp b Hartley 6
J D Lewry b b Hartley 13
Extras (b 1) 1
Total (2 wickets, 12.2 overs) 33

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-12, 3-22, 4-55, 5-145, 6-148, 7-150, 8-301, 9-322

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

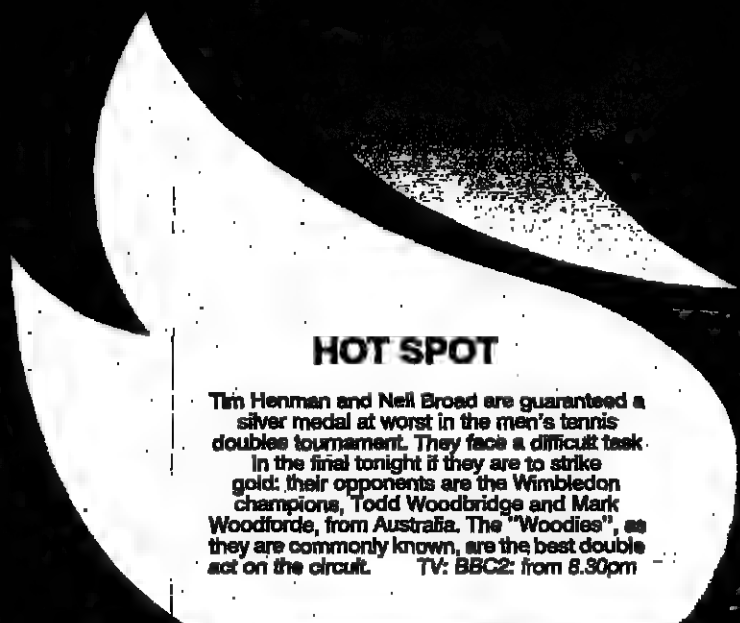


Such is her greatness that some may even come to suggest that the ping was put before pong in her honour. Deng Yaping, at 4ft 11in and 8st, is a giant of her sport, having become the first to retain both the table tennis singles title and the doubles crown, with partner Qiao Hong. Deng's impressive 3-2 victory (21-14, 21-17, 20-22, 17-21, 21-5) over Chen Jing, of Taiwan, proved again that her rivals have been less troublesome than her height. When she was nine, she won a provincial championship but was barred from the regional team because she was too short. At 15, she became national champion but was denied a place on the national team because she was too short. A year later, officials relented and Deng won the doubles world title with Qiao. Now 23, Deng, who played Qiao for the individual title in Barcelona, when there were cash awards and other incentives ensuring fair play, is unsure what her rewards will be this time beyond her fourth gold medal. CL

While air conditioning has been a saviour for almost everyone in the Georgian heat, the system has been causing concern to the rhythmic gymnasts in the Stageman Coliseum in Athens. During the national championships in May, the strength of the air conditioning played havoc with the gymnasts' ribbon routines. Indeed, Jessica Davis, the United States champion, had to spend precious moments during her trademark Swan Lake routine untangling the knots in her ribbon. The problem had still not been solved two weeks ago when two other American gymnasts came down to test the air. Happily, there have been no problems reported during the first two days of competition. Not with the air conditioning anyway. The lights are a different matter. They are too dazzling against the dark ceiling. "I have a black ball and black clubs and when I throw them up they get lost in the lights," Amine Zeripova, the 1995 world championship ribbon silver medal-winner, said. AL

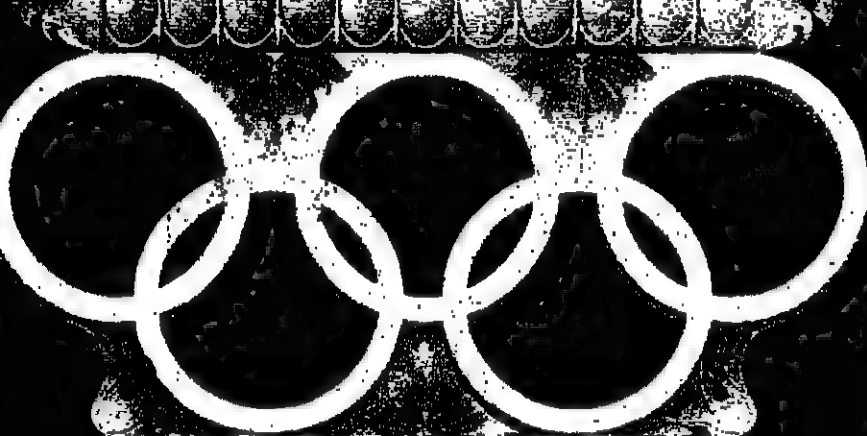
Ben Anslie, who won a silver medal on Wednesday in the Laser class, is a superstitious character. Like Bjorn Borg, he does not shave during major competitions, and in addition, he always goes out for a Chinese meal at the beginning of a big regatta. He started off his Olympic campaign with a visit to Hunan's Chinese restaurant, close to the Olympic marina outside Savannah. But he went back there again on Tuesday night with his sister, Fleur, and her boyfriend, as he prepared for the showdown with Robert Scheidt, the Laser world champion from Brazil. According to Fleur, Britain's brightest young competitive sailor had barbecue spare ribs, "and something and noodles — probably beef and black bean sauce." He washed it down with three Diet Cokes and was back in bed at his parents' rented house in Savannah at 9.30pm. "We normally do the Chinese before the beginning of an event," said a nervous Fleur. "But this time we thought we should do it twice." EG

Reports: Craig Lord, Andrew Longmire, David Powell



HOT SPOT

Tim Henman and Neil Broad are guaranteed a silver medal at worst in the men's tennis doubles tournament. They face a difficult task in the final tonight if they are to strike gold: their opponents are the Wimbledon champions, Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, from Australia. The "Woodies", as they are commonly known, are the best double act on the circuit. TV: BBC2 from 8.30pm



MEDAL TABLES					
	Gold	Silver	Brass		
United States	17	16	15	Finland	1
China	16	10	9	Latvia	1
France	15	10	14	Norway	1
Germany	11	12	14	Sweden	1
Italy	11	12	14	Switzerland	1
Ukraine	11	12	14	Ukraine	1
South Korea	11	12	14	Yugoslavia	1
Romania	11	12	14	Cuba	1
Hungary	11	12	14	Russia	1
Greece	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Switzerland	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Cuba	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Japan	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Spain	11	12	14	Belarus	1
New Zealand	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Israel	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Turkey	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Canada	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Holland	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Kazakhstan	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Belgium	11	12	14	Belarus	1
North Korea	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Spain	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Dominican Republic	11	12	14	Belarus	1
South Africa	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Ethiopia	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Belarus	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Great Britain	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Czech Republic	11	12	14	Belarus	1
Sweden	11	12	14	Belarus	1

Weather: hot Humidity: 94% Temperature: 71F

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Few athletes at these Olympic Games have had as little time to prepare as Kamel Abdullah Bahamdan, the Saudi Arabia showjumper. Two weeks ago the 26-year-old investment banker was called to the telephone at the BV Capital Bank in Boston where he works to be told that Saudi Arabia had been invited to enter a showjumping team in Atlanta, after the late withdrawal of New Zealand. Bahamdan, who was brought up in Riyadh but has lived and competed in the United States for the last seven years, was asked to join the team — the first from Saudi Arabia to compete in an Olympic equestrian event — on the German-bred Missouri, a horse borrowed from another Saudi rider who had qualified it for Atlanta. "I said yes and then set about focusing myself," Bahamdan said. After collecting only eight faults in the individual qualifier on Monday, he said: "We're still getting to know each other, but I've nothing to lose here: not even my team is expecting anything of me." JM

Returning to the exploits of Robin Hood, we're not talking archery, but diving, and the New Zealand judge with the same name as the former denizen of Sherwood Forest. Hood got into trouble at the world championships in Rome two years ago, when his marking was considered to be out of line with that of his fellow judges on a couple of occasions. He was at it again at midnight on Wednesday during a women's springboard final, won by Fu Mingxia, of China. The first sign of trouble was in the second round, when Hood gave Jenny Kelm, of the United States, a 4.5 score, 1.5 below the rest. The crowd of 14,000 booed, but Hood was unbowed. He did the same with Melissa Moser, also from the United States, and Fu in the next round, while marking 14-year-old Anna Linberg, of Sweden, at eight points to an average of 6.5. The moment came when a diver — Vera Ilyina, of Russia — did indeed merit just 4.5, according to the average scores given. Hood's marking? 2.5. CL

Great Britain team officials left John Nuttall, their only men's 5,000 metres runner, without a bedroom and treading over three nights' lost sleep after the athletics programme began last Friday. "I feel very let down," Nuttall said. "I am still catching up on my sleep," he added, after qualifying from the first round on Wednesday, explaining that he had been forced to bed down in the communal athletes' lounge until Monday, despite requests to the team management to find him a room. "I could not go to bed until everybody else, which was about 12.30, and I was woken up in the mornings at about seven o'clock when the first guys got up. I was woken several times when people went to the toilet. I had nowhere to relax during the day, nowhere to unpack. Everybody was on my bed to watch TV. I spoke to the team administrator but he said he was sorry, nothing could be done. But, before I got a bed, other people had finished competing." DP

Reports: Jenny MacArthur, Craig Lord, David Powell

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ARCHERY: Men's and women's teams, third round and quarter-finals (14.00), semi-finals and finals (17.15).

ATHLETICS: Men: 50km walk (12.30); 4 x 100m relay, heats (14.15); javelin, qualifying (14.30 and 16.00); 4 x 400m relay, heats (15.30); pole vault, final (22.00); 4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.30); 4 x 400m relay, semi-finals (01.00); 3,000m steeplechase, final (02.05). Women: 4 x 100m relay, heats (15.00); shot, final (23.55);

4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.00); long jump, final (00.15); 4 x 400m relay, heats (01.30); 10,000m, final (02.30).

BASEBALL: Bronze medal match (19.00) and final (00.00).

BASKETBALL: Men: Play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 20.00 and 00.00). Women: Semi-finals (01.00 and 03.00).

BOXING: Semi-finals: Flyweight, featherweight, light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (from 01.00).

CANOEING: Sprint semi-finals (all 500m): Men's K1 (14.00); men's C1 (14.30); Women's

K1 (14.50); men's K2 (15.10); men's C2 (15.30); women's K2 (15.50).

DIVING: Men's platform, semi-finals (16.30) and final (01.00).

FOOTBALL: Third-place play-off (01.00).

GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic, preliminaries (15.00), group rhythmic finals (20.00).

HANDBALL: Men's play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 00.00 and 02.00) and semi-finals (19.30 and 21.30).

HOCKEY: Men's play-off for fifth place (13.30), bronze medal match (22.00) and final (00.30).

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: Women's team, free routine (22.00).

TENNIS: Women's singles, bronze medal match and final; men's doubles, final (all 16.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's play-offs (17.00) and semi-finals (00.30).

WRESTLING: Freestyle: Under 52kg, under 62kg, under 74kg, under 90kg and under 130kg classification matches (14.30); finals (20.30).

YACHTING: Soling medal matches (17.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympics, 10.20pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

5.35-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand, 8.10-10.20pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.25-4.30am Olympic Grandstand.

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ATLANTA 1996

OLYMPIC GAMES

Ainslie's ill-fated strategy backed by team-mates

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SAVANNAH

BRITAIN'S sailing team are united behind Ben Ainslie, the silver medal-winner in Laser class, who lost his chance of an Olympic title at 19 through disqualification in his final race. They are unanimous that he had to do it to get to the start-line neck-and-neck with Robert Scheidt, the Brazilian champion, rather than concede advantage. Both were disqualified, giving Scheidt the title.

Great sailors come from little boats. Ainslie is the most exciting prospect in British sailing since Chris Law. Unlimited horizons lie ahead, yet he must not let this success warp his judgment — nor will he. For the present, he has decided to stay with Lasers, despite the attraction of larger keel-boat racing.

"He had no alternative," Ian Rhodes, whose chances with David Williams in the Tornado class, sank because of their own errors, said of Ainslie's tactics at a celebration party given by Craig Reddie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association. "When Scheidt turned for the line, in the manoeuvre during the last minute before the gun, Ben had to stay with him. If not, had the start been clean, Ben risked letting him get away."

Claudio Blekarc, Scheidt's coach, thought that Ainslie might have been better to have ignored Scheidt, in the tense



"covering" of the match-racing start strategy, and go flat out for his own race. Ainslie, who had been the more aggressive of the two, and technically had "won" the first two starts that were recalled, disagrees. "If I'd done that, he would have shadowed me," he said.

Ainslie admitted he had much to learn. Asked for detail, he replied "That!", referring to the climax to this regatta — an experience he will remember for the rest of his career. It could prove hugely beneficial. In one moment, he became wiser and older by years. Ben did well under such pressure throughout the regatta. Scheidt, world champion for the past two years, said appreciatively. Ainslie said that Scheidt's manoeuvre, being the windward (up-wind) boat on the

final tack, would have become illegal had they crossed the line after, instead of before, the gun, such as the split-second helming decisions at close quarters. Ainslie could not ease or bear away to slow down, being the leeward (down-wind) boat because of another on his leeward side as they headed in a mass of boats for the line as if on a crowded escalator.

"I loved it, all the adrenalin running," Ainslie said. "At the next Olympics, hopefully, maybe I'll be more mature, I won't get so heated."

In the long term, he would like to move to the big boats, to have the chance to compete in the Admiral's Cup, the America's Cup, the Whitbread Round the World Race. "I don't have to rush," he said, "and anyway, there are so many good sailors already out there."

The overall performance of the sailing team has been a lesson to most other British sports. An accurate analysis of the 1992 regatta by Mike McIntyre, head of Olympic preparation, has enabled the team to raise its performance in one of the most complex sports, where meteorology and oceanography can play a key part. For instance, two specialists spent two weeks, working ten-hour days in inflatable boats, studying the tidal movements at the Savannah course, seldom previously used for prolonged fleet racing. In Wednesday's race, Ainslie was being pushed by a three knot spring tide towards the line, against the wind in a choppy sea.

The Soling team works under a considerable handicap. Nowhere in Britain is there a free launching facility, an operation that costs £50 each way, and must be used every two or three days, even when practising, to keep the hull clean.

Rod Carr, the executive manager, would like to establish seven or eight sailing centres around the country where such facilities would be available to members of the team. "We don't need exclusive use," he said, "but we need areas, relatively tide-free, that are within reach of any potential Olympic competitor."

Many of the team are still part time. Sue Carr, for instance, racing a 470, lost £130 for every day's leave of absence as a teacher employed by Derbyshire County Council. Barry Parkin, a member of the Soling crew and a commercial manager when not sailing, said: "You cannot do both nowadays satisfactorily. We've managed to sail for 20 weeks of the last seven months. Most of the other top 12 nations are full-time. If they have jobs, they are in the sailing industry."



A move to larger boats beckons in the long term for Great Britain's silver medal-winner, Ainslie

Men's team ends on high note

Great Britain 4
India 3

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE men's hockey match between Great Britain and India was mistakenly listed on the television here yesterday as the final, evoking memories of 1948. Then India beat Britain 4-0; the tables were turned yesterday, albeit in a play-off for seventh place.

India started the better, scoring through Baljit Dhillon in the third minute, missing a good chance three minutes later, and scoring again from a penalty stroke by Ramandeep Singh after Shaw had brought Britain level.

Laslett got Britain back on terms in the 44th minute, converting a pass from McGuire. A shaky Indian defence then conceded two more goals during a period of sustained pressure. Wyatt put the finishing touch to a short corner and Mayer scored from a long corner. In the dying seconds, Pargat Singh reduced the lead from a short corner. India's eighth position was their lowest in the history of the Games.

GREAT BRITAIN: D Luckes, J Wyatt, J Hall, P McGuire, K Taylor, S Singh, C Meyer, R Garcia, J Lee, J Laslett (captain), N Thompson. Substitutes used: C Giles, D Hall, J Shaw, S Hodge.

Norway savours genuine article

Twenty years after Sweden last won an Olympic athletics gold medal, and 40 years after Norway's, the Scandinavian neighbours were celebrating victories within half an hour of each other on Wednesday evening. Norway louder than Sweden.

Whereas Vegbjorn Rodal, who won the men's 800 metres, was born, raised and trained in Norway, Ludmila Engquist, the women's 100 metres hurdles champion, is a former Russian who has

David Powell on the differing routes taken by two athletes on the road to Olympic gold

served a drugs ban and was cleared to compete here for Sweden only four weeks ago. A blue-eyed blonde she may be, but Sweden is not convinced she is one of them.

Before she married her Swedish manager, Engquist's name was Narozhilenko, winner of the gold medal at the 1991 world championships. In 1993 she was suspended for

four years after failing a drugs test but reinstated when her former husband admitted spiking her food with steroids to avenge her leaving him.

A Russian court cleared Narozhilenko and the International Amateur Athletic Federation, saving itself the expense of a court case, allowed her back after 2½ years. On the whole, the Swedish media has supported her, saying that she was a victim of her husband's jealousy, but there is scepticism within the sport in Sweden.

These Olympics are the first time that Engquist has competed for Sweden, though she has been living in the suburbs of Stockholm since November 1993. Normally she would have needed three years before obtaining Swedish citizenship but, in a move reminiscent of Britanny, she was granted it on June 20.

However, without Russia's approval last month, she would have been barred from the Games under International Olympic Committee rules. This is her third successive Olympics, each time in different national colours. In 1988 it was the Soviet Union, in 1992 the Unified Team (the dismembered former Soviet Union, minus the Baltic states) and now Sweden.

Rodal's development has been strictly Norwegian, run-

ning for his country in European and world junior championships before graduating to the senior team. Ironically, he may not have won had another Scandinavian country, Denmark, been as flexible in granting citizenship as Sweden was with Engquist.

Wilson Kipketer, Kenyan-born but resident in Denmark for six years, is the 800 metres world champion, but was unable to take part here. Denmark has made him wait the normal seven years for citizenship.

Engquist cleared to compete for Sweden



Kanu scores Nigeria's late equaliser to take their Olympic football semi-final with Brazil into extra time

Kanu's golden goal signals breakthrough for Nigeria

ANDREW LONGMORE



celebrates an African triumph

of Bill Clinton, the whole Nigerian government appeared on the pitch to claim the credit.

In the opposite corner of the Sanford stadium, a line of the world's finest young players trooped dejectedly away: Ronaldo — known by his nickname, Ronaldinho, for this tournament — Juninho, Ze Elias and Flavio, whose two goals had helped to give Brazil a 3-1 lead at half-time. "Bronze is nothing," Juninho, the Middlesbrough midfielder player, said. "Only the gold matters."

Like Japan's seismic defeat of Brazil in the group matches, the joy of the victory reflected the emergence of a footballing nation as much as thoughts of Olympic gold. Tactical innocence and lack of heart — those

were the two faults stopping the best of the African nations from reaching the Europeans and the South Americans. Yet it was precisely those qualities that, in contrast to the last-minute defeat by Italy on Nigeria's last venture on American soil — two years ago in the World Cup — that marked the difference between the two sides on Wednesday night, turning a 3-1 deficit with 13 minutes left, and a penalty already missed, into riotous victory 17 minutes later. Nigeria had learnt from the 1-0 defeat by Brazil in the group match. Brazil, even with the superb guidance of Mario Zagallo, had not.

The Brazilians did too much defending. "Jo Bonfrere, Nigeria's Dutch coach, said, 'but we changed it in the second half, pushing defenders out to play as attacking midfielders. It was all or nothing in the last ten minutes.' Not for the first time in their history, Brazil sat back on their lead, content to wait for the chance to counter-attack. Three times in the second half, Ronaldinho, a 19-year-old recently transferred from PSV Eindhoven to Barcelona for £13 million, burst down the right. Three times, his cross missed its target.

Zagallo, thinking the game was won, took off Juninho and brought on the more prosaic Ronaldo. The initiative was lost and the weakness of the Brazil defence exposed, despite the presence of the World Cup defenders, Aldair and Roberto Carlos, two of the three over-

age players. Victor Ikpeba, of AS Monaco, made it 3-2, before Kanu shed his anonymity to slide home the equaliser 32 seconds from time.

In the interview room, Zagallo, 65, grey hair thinning, bespectacled eyes looking straight ahead like a man searching for the end of the road, praised the strength of his opponents and bemoaned the shortage of good defenders in his own country. "The problem is in the schools," he said. "Every Brazilian boy wants to be a forward. None want to play in defensive positions." Defenders, as small boys instinctively know, do not command £13 million transfer fees.

Bonfrere could afford a measure of satisfaction: "We knew from the first game [when Japan beat Brazil] that there is not any more a big gap between teams like Brazil and teams from Asia and Africa. It is now just a matter of tactical planning and the way players carry out those plans on the pitch."

Off the pitch, the Nigerians have been beset with problems, from critics in the press to substandard accommodation. The team are housed in the Econolodge hotel in Athens, not quite fitting for Olympic finals. "I told my players to forget all the problems for 90 minutes, then we will think about a new set of problems," Bonfrere said. An impressive Argentina side will pose plenty tomorrow, even to the conquerors of Brazil.

British riders fail to weather storm

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

IN A team showjumping competition almost as dramatic as the Atlanta thunderstorm that saturated the arena and caused a lengthy delay, Germany, the favourites for the gold medal, forged into the lead, with Ireland, France, Brazil, Spain and the United States all looking possible medal contenders as the event approached the halfway stage.

For the British riders, drawn last, the opening of the heavens matched their own despairing mood after a dismal opening round had left them struggling to finish in the top half. With John Whitaker, the fourth team rider, still waiting to go in the first round when the storm broke, Nick Skelton's eight faults on Showtime was the best of the three British scores.

Nineteen teams contested the event, for which Linda Allen, the innovative course designer, had devised an intimidating 13-fence course. "Big, technical and gutsy," was the verdict of Ronnie Massarella, the Britain team manager.

It rode every bit as tough as it looked. Only a handful of riders had clear rounds, among them the European champion, Peter Charles, of Ireland, on the inexperienced

Boston. Germany had a dramatic start when Franke Smolhaak, the world champion, fell and cut his wrist at fence nine, the Southfork Ranch gate (inspired by the television series, *Dallas*), but swiftly compensated for his loss with clear rounds from their next two

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riders. Skelton, the first British rider, who had been concerned about Showtime's ability to handle the water jump, faulted there and also at 12a, the first part of the Hawaiian Bamboo Double.

"I felt I was a bit unlucky," Skelton said. "She was jumping well and didn't deserve those two fences." There was worse in store. Michael Whitaker's Two Step, who has been off form from the start of the event, collected 16 faults. Malcolm Pyrah, the team trainer, said there was nothing wrong with the horse — "he's just faded."

A disconsolate Whitaker, unable to reconcile the performance here with Two Step's successes in the Calgary Grand Prix and European Championships last September, said: "He's just not going. He's spooking at everything." When Geoff Billington, the big hope of the team after his clear round in the qualifier on Monday, collected 12 faults, four of them at the water, a lingering chance of a medal had gone. "I was trying to get a good stride to the water but he kept backing off," Billington said. The mistake unsettled the normally careful 17s Otto, who then faulted at the last two fences.

While British riders struggled to come to terms with the course, Ireland, seeking their first Olympic showjumping medal, were lifted into the top three at the halfway stage by a superb round from their fourth rider, Eddie Macken, on his reserve horse, Schalkhaar. The Spaniards, improved out of all recognition by their British trainer, David Broome, moved into contention after a faultless round from Fernando Sarasaola, on Ennio.

Fourth Russian fails drugs test

FROM CRAIG LORD AND JOHN GOODBODY

IN A fresh spate of drug revelations yesterday, a fourth Russian was disqualified after testing positive for bromantan, Ireland was reprimanded for failing to "take care" of its athletes after one of the country's runners was found to have taken a banned painkiller, and three swimmers were said to have been caught smoking marijuana.

Martina Trandenkova, 29, who was fifth in the 100 metres, became the fourth Russian, and the fifth athlete at the Games, to have been found to have taken bromantan, a stimulant that is believed to help the body tolerate high temperatures.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced three days ago that the substance was a "new" drug that was covered by a "related substances" clause in its rules. However, Michele Verdier, spokeswoman for the IOC, said yesterday: "This substance was declared illegal on June 5."

that Marie MacMahon, who finished fourteenth in the 5,000 metres, had tested positive for Phenylpropionaparine Robitussin, a painkiller said to be found in cough medicine. She escaped a ban, however.

Verdier said that she had "no information at this time" about suggestions that three swimmers had been caught with marijuana.

A Russian appeal against the disqualification of Andrei Kornecov, a swimmer, and Zafar Guliyov, a Greco-Roman wrestler, is still proceeding. There has been no appeal yet in the cases of Nina Zhivanevskaia, another swimmer, and Trandenkova, who was a member of the 4x100 metres relay team that won silver at Barcelona.

Verdier's rebuke to Irish officials followed confirmation

FORM GUIDE TO TODAY'S EVENTS

MEN

50km walk
RECORDS: World: 3:37:41 (A Perlov, USSR) 1989; European: 3:37:41 (A Perlov, USSR) 1989; British: 3:51:27 (C Macdonald, 1989); Olympic: 3:52:29 (V Ivanenko, USSR) 1988.

1996 BEST: 3:40:58 A Pionkova (Russia), 3:42:30 N Maygajev (Russia), 3:42:40 R Kozlovskiy (POL), 3:42:52 Zhao Yongsheng (China), 3:42:52 V Gorko (Belor), 3:43:00 (Belor), 3:43:01 Zhang Huiqiang (China), 3:43:19 V Kononen (FIN).

BEST BRITISH PERFORMANCES: Gold: T Green (1989), H Winsack (1986), D Thompson (1986).

WOMEN

10,000 metres
RECORDS: World: 29m 31.78sec (Wang Junxia, China) 1993; European: 30:13.74 (K. Adkins, New 1986); British: 30:57.07 (E McColligan 1991); Olympic: 31:05.21 (O Bondarenko, USSR) 1988.

1996 BEST: 31:01.01 W Wang Junxia (China), 31:13.21 Ren Xuejun (China), 31:19.40 H Runko (Finland), 31:20.19 Y Kawakami (Japan), 31:20.46 M Chiba (Japan), 31:24.08 J Viqueiro (Esp), 31:31.14 Wang Mengda (China), 31:33.53 F Ribera (Port), 31:51.41 K Wessel (Ger), 31:51.71 N. Risk (Aust).

BEST BRITISH PERFORMANCES: Silver: McColligan (1988).

GONE WITH THE WIND.



France enjoy benefit of de Gaulle's vision

It was General de Gaulle who laid the foundation for France's success in these Games. Thirteen gold medals, a stark contrast to the one earned by Great Britain in Atlanta, are evidence aplenty of the success of de Gaulle's plans.

At the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, France failed to gain any victories and there was a cartoon printed in a French newspaper that September of de Gaulle ready to leave for Italy complaining: "In this country, if I don't do everything myself..."

De Gaulle may not have competed at those Games, but he was insulted that his vision of the excellence and nobility of France should have been besmirched. In 1961, he appointed a Minister of Sport and established a structure that has allowed France, over the last three summer Olymp-

pics, to achieve better results than Britain. In the winter Olympics since 1964, France have been embarrassingly superior.

One central difference between the two countries is that France has a Minister of Sport, Guy Druet, the 1976 Olympic 110 hurdles champion, who has a budget and power, whereas Britain has a Minister for Sport, Iain Sprouat, a former cricket statistician, who has neither. Successive French sports ministers since the Sixties have been able to support the governing bodies of various sports without having to involve the separate bureaucracy of the Sports Council. The chairman of the new United Kingdom Sports Council is Sir Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, but a man usually able to give only one day a month to sorting out the

John Goodbody looks at the reason Great Britain's nearest neighbour is enjoying such success in Atlanta



THE MISSING MEDALS

evident problem in Britain, even if he were able to do so.

In France, the Government takes direct responsibility for sporting performance. It also forces everyone taking part in an activity to join the national governing body and pay to be a licensed competitor. Out of the population of 55 million, 12 million are registered sportsmen and

sportswomen. This brings in valuable revenue for the sports governing bodies.

In Britain, there is no obligation for people taking part in many sports, such as football and tennis, to be a member of the governing body.

Jean-Francoise Renault, a leading journalist on *L'Equipe*, the French daily

sports newspaper, said: "It is much better to have a system of having a minister with power and money. However, like Britain we have the same problems with so many youngsters giving up sport in their teens. Don't forget we only have two hours of sport for each week for every child in school." This is the same amount as recommended by the British Government in the National Curriculum.

Jean Richard Germonet, the director of elite training for the French Olympic Committee, said: "State aid is absolutely indispensable. Without it, we could not prepare properly for these Games. Money is paid directly from the state to help subsidise coaches in judo, in which France have 494,000 registered competitors. There are 72 fully-paid coaches and development officers in most of the 92 départements." Brit-

ain has three coaches and four part-time development officers. France won eight medals, including three gold, in judo in these Games; Britain took none.

Whereas, in Britain, competitors receive subsidiary from the Sports Aid Foundation, in France it goes through the individual federations, with leading competitors receiving similar amounts according to their ability. The elite receive about £1,250 per month. However, at these Games, the French, unlike the British, directly reward competitors who reach the podium. A gold medal is worth £32,000, a silver £15,000 and a bronze £10,000.

When asked if the French method is better than in Britain, Germonet replied: "It is the system. The proof is that it works." Britain's system is not working.

Fu establishes monopoly of the board game

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

YOU will remember Fu Mingxia. She gave us the abiding image of the Barcelona Games: the Chinese high diver, a waif in a trance of concentration silhouetted against the Montjuïc sky. There she won the platform diving gold medal at the age of 13, and we hoped then to see a good deal more of her.

We have. Thirty pounds more, to be precise, plus an extra inch of height that takes her to 5ft 3in and nine stone. She won the platform event here in Atlanta and then went for the springboard competition as well: the diver's double. In Barcelona, she was too slight a thing to generate power from the springboard.

Well, four years ago she was a little girl, half-bewildered by her own gift. These days, she is halfway to being a woman, and a woman of power.

Not that you would know, if you caught her face in repose, which admittedly is something you hardly ever do. I have seen such a face a million times on Hong Kong ferries: pleasant, animated, commonplace. A short flop of black hair with a straightish parting. The gossip and laughter of such people filled my ears on a thousand Hong Kong journeys, and Fu would fit into the crowds without turning a head. Though the big, lopsided smile that erupts without warning might make you smile back.

But in competition, you cannot take your eyes from her. Spookily composed, self-hypnotised. And utterly with-

out fear. She began her final set of five dives with an inward dive: throwing down the gauntlet, for most competitors like to get their eye in with something less alarming.

Safe options? The words have no meaning for Fu. I have watched her diving from the ten-metre platform: unusually, and frequently, she gets so close to the edge that her fringe flicks the board on her way down. Yet she has never bashed her head on the platform.

Her confidence in her mastery of that narrow corridor of space is complete; and that, not the tumblers, is what diving is all about. At this level, anyone can turn 3½ somersaults in the air. But to do them so precisely that you hit the water like an arrow, that is diving. A test of courage and spatial understanding. It is an

arcane way to seek perfection, but when it comes it is obvious: a different sound as diver hits water. Not a double splash and a dramatic cloud of spray; a monosyllabic rip.

So there stands Fu, backwards on the springboard. No other competitor, it seems, gets so close to the edge. Of the springboard, of everything. Not as a matter of daring: it is just her natural place. The schoolgirl flop has gone: the hair is now swept back from the forehead in a brief, black and dripping mane.

And the pleasant face has turned inward, every aspect of body and mind turned to the mastering of space. "I am very well prepared psychologically," she said afterwards, when we asked her about her edge. "I was not concentrating on gold. I was concentrating on each dive."

She has lost the little-girl-gymnast's body. She has added the dimension of power to the grace she always possessed. The fourth round was where it told. It was a tight competition until then. Fu gave us a reverse 2½ somersaults, piked: soaring high to spin back in and attack the board. It was the round where each of her rivals told herself: this is my chance, seize it.

And missed. Not Fu. The aerial gymnastics were performed in a flash, and she had all the time in the world to transform herself into an arrow. A soft, decisive rip. And the rest could squabble about second. Fu becomes the first woman to do the diver's double since Ingrid Kramer, of Germany, in 1960; she, too, was 17. No diver has won more than four golds, or more than five medals in total. Will you be back in Sydney? Fu smiled. She is not retiring. Just taking each dive as it comes.



Fu's grace and power were evident as she captured the springboard gold

"In 1992, I was a little girl," she said. "I am older and I am heavier now, and I use different strategies that work to my advantage. I have also grown a lot in terms of experience - and that is why the gold medal means a lot to me this time."

She won the first on talent alone, almost a passive victim of her own ability. But this time she knew what it was

about. Some of us achieve grown-upness by a love affair; others, though not many, with a gold medal.

And the lonely search for perfection continues. It is a hard, often brutal way of life. No one gets that good at anything on talent alone. The routines for flexibility are like a daily stretching on the rack,

with your trainer pushing, pulling and, in extremes, standing on top of you. What is the worst exercise you have to do, Miss Fu?

"The exercise I hate most is the one I don't do well," she said. There, in a line, is this girl, the woman with three diving golds. The eyes, once again, but briefly, two small smiles.

Coleman no longer cuts the mustard



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

AFTER 13 late nights in a row (a figure that exceeds even the wildest excesses of my second year at university), I have begun to hear voices. They arrive any time after I am and they argue incessantly.

"Excellent," says the voice of the Olympic purist, taking up position on my left shoulder as David Coleman announces that coming soon are three heats of the men's 5000 metres. "That'll take us up nicely to the women's springboard at 3.30am, with perhaps a little live basketball to follow. Anyone fancy a cup of tea?"

"Go to bed, bonehead," says the voice of the pragmatic patriot on my right shoulder. "Christie, Regis, Ridgeon... the only way you're going to see a medal in this stadium is in your dreams. Night, night."

On Wednesday night the voice of the Olympic purist prevailed until the excitement of the women's 100 metres hurdles final and the triple jump produced a natural hiatus at around 2.15am. "Still to come..." enthused an eager Coleman, "three heats of the men's..." "Bed," hissed the voice in my right ear, "go to bed." Well, you can only be an Olympic purist for so long.

By that time, thanks to an early start to the semi-finals of the women's 100 metres hurdles, I had already enjoyed 3½ hours of BBC coverage, coverage which I am reliably informed is superior to anything being shown in the United States. The question is, could it have been even better? I think it could.

After his inevitable failure

in the second round of the 200 metres, Coleman accurately pointed out that Linford Christie had fallen victim to "the next generation". But what happens to sprinters applies to commentators too and, after ten summer Olympics, Coleman should follow Christie's example and retire. His commentary is simply not what it was. He should make way and let us remember him as the voice of athletics.

His natural successor is in place, in the authoritative shape of Stuart Storey, who has had a cool, calm and, above all, accurate Olympics. If Storey finds Merlene Ottey where we expect to see Juliet Cuthbert, it is because the athletes have changed heats, not because he is muddled up. He is also prepared to mix it a bit.

After a cracking finish to the final of the women's 100 metres hurdles he tossed in the suggestion that it was time the height of the women's hurdles was raised. That's not a new idea, of course, but it was the right talking point at the right time.

Alongside him, Paul Dickenson has had a pretty decent Games too. Early yesterday morning it was Inessa Kravets who came to his aid with a huge triple jump. "Beamon-esque" might have been pushing it, but we know what he meant.

Both Storey and Dickenson, of course, are former Olympians. Storey in the high hurdles, Dickenson in the hammer - but they are both Olympians of some vintage now. Top priority must be to get some younger blood into the commentary box alongside them.

There is no shortage of candidates. Daley Thompson sounds quite promising, when

he is being serious, while Steve Cram and Tim Hutchings are both doing a good job at EumSport. It is also far from inconceivable that Seb Coe might be looking for a new job next spring. A female voice is also long overdue, in which case, if Sally Gunnell does decide to call it a day, a new job could be waiting.

The problem is that the former athletes of today continue to make huge fortunes from marketing tomorrow. But just as the country needs to invest in the future of British athletics, so the BBC needs to invest in the future of its commentary team. It could be cheque book time.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

ABALONE

(a) A gastropod mollusc of the genus *Halotis*, used for food; an ear-shell or sea-ear. From the Spanish *abulón*, Monterey Indian *abulón*, in the same sense.

CACUMINAL

(a) Of sounds: produced with the tip of the tongue "inverted" or curved upwards towards the hard palate. From the Latin *caecum* (or *caecal*), verb *dabak* to cling or cleave. "An old Jew who muttered jargon into as rabbi's beard as if saying a spell against Dybbuks."

DYBBUK

(a) In Jewish folklore, the malevolent spirit of a dead person that enters and controls the body of a living person until exorcised. From the Hebrew *dibbuk*, verb *dabak* to cling or cleave. "An old Jew who muttered jargon into as rabbi's beard as if saying a spell against Dybbuks."

BOSKOP

(a) Of or belonging to the early type of man indicated by the skull of the late Pleistocene period found at Boskop, in the Transvaal, South Africa. "The Boskop man was of the Neanderthal race, but more advanced in intelligence."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rb4! (1... R7b4? Works equally well) 1... axb4 2 Qb3 Kxb3 3 Bb3 Kf5 4 Be2 mate. Without the initial rook sacrifice, Black would be able to play 4... Qg4 in the final position.

RADIO CHOICE

For Sunday, read Friday

The Sunday Format. Radio 4, 11pm.

Thanks to radio technology, we now have a Sunday newspaper - weekend supplements included - on Friday. Current affairs topics discussed include: is media treatment of Africa's human disasters a form of pornography for the advanced world? Medical advice includes: avoid watching monkeys climbing trees; you'll get a sore neck. Photography hint: you need a good eye for images that are potentially the defining icons of the coming weekend. Social affairs: under the headline "Bouncing Czechs" (the question is posed: why is it that Czechoslovakian men are so reluctant to wear underwear?) Shopping guide: be careful when buying a dressing gown from trappist monks. You may end up with a tractor.

Mining the Archive. Radio 3, 3pm.

Director of the Edinburgh Festival for five of its 50 years, Sir John Drummond selects highlights from his first half-century. We have come to expect anecdotes from him and he does not disappoint us. Nor are we disappointed in the matter of spoken word extracts which he picks from the BBC archives, including Beethoven explaining why he originally could shoulder the Edinburgh Festival, then in the characteristically Olympian fashion, relented. In the first of four programmes, the items Sir John chooses include Beethoven's *Consolation of the House* overture, the first movement of his *Quartet Op 59 No 3* and the "choral" symphony. Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening, incl Golden Hour 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from the Priory Park in South London 12.30pm USA/Anson, and Newbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Annie Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan</p>	<p>All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 5.45 Folk Routes 6.30 Europe Today 6.45 Words and Music 6.50 The Insider's Guide 7.00 Olympic Sportsweek 7.30 Rock Salad 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Pick of the World 9.15 Music Review 9.45 Poems by Post 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 11.45 On the Shelf 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science in Action 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multiback Alternative 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Spotlight 6.30 News in German 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.01 Poems '96 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 For and Against 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multiback Alternative 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Atlanta Live 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Atlanta Live 4.05 Atlanta Live 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show</p>
RADIO 2	CLASSIC FM
<p>FM Stereo, 6.30am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Women 8.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thresher 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedy Quiz, hosted by Pam Ayres 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Every Living Thing 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 The Cambridge Folk Festival 12.05am Charles Jones</p>	<p>4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto (Duo) (Cello Concerto in E minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Classic Newsnight 8.30 Sonoma 7.00 Showcase 8.00 Evening Concert, Purcell (Come Ye Sons of Art Away, 2323), Darius (Cynara), Bliss (A Colour Symphony) Edgar (Enigma Variations), 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Petoison</p>
RADIO 3	VIRGIN RADIO
<p>5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Olympic Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magazine, with Dana Madill 12.00 Midday with Mark, incl 12.30pm Money-check, with Katie Derham 2.00 Inverdale's Olympia Includes the opening rounds of the sprint relays. Plus racing from Goodwood 5.30 Nationalwide 7.00 Olympic News Extra, incl at 7.30am Sports and Olympic Roundup 7.45 Atlanta Live, with Sybil Roscoe and Ian Payne includes the women's tennis final, and yachting from Sawaman 10.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 11.00 Inverdale's Olympia Includes the men's hockey final and more of the boxing semi-finals 4.00am Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp</p>	<p>6.00am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dixon</p>
RADIO 4	
<p>6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, Beethoven (Violin Sonata in F, Op 24, Concerto, Respighi Fountains of Rome), Mozart (Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K495), Bach (Partita No 1 in B flat, BWV 825), Verdi (Overture: The Force of Destiny), Prokofiev (Symphony No 1, Classical)</p> <p>9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Stravinsky (Fireworks), Beethoven (Bagatelles, Op 126), Bizet (Symphony in C)</p> <p>10.00 Musical Encounters, Hindemith (Trauermusik), Glazunov (Incidental music: The King of the Jews, Acts 1 and 2), Zolpi, an Gnaessler (Toccata), Bruch (Romance Op 85), Prokofiev (Russian Overture), 11.00 Carl Vine (Piano Sonata), Bach, orch (Slovakian Nocturne)</p> <p>12.00 Composer of the Week: Handel</p> <p>1.00pm News, Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Bartok Plus, Gyorgy Paul, violin Roger Vignoles, piano Beethoven (Violin Sonata in C minor Op 30 No 2), Bartok (Violin Sonata No 2 in)</p> <p>2.00 Music Restored, from St James's Church, Piccadilly in London, Montserrat Figueras, soprano, Andrew Lawrence-King, harp, Jordi Savall, viola da gamba, includes works by Tobias Hume, Juan Hidalgo, Jose Mann and Tarquinio Merula</p> <p>3.00 Mining the Archive, Edinburgh Festival Choral Festival, See Choral (1.4) 5.00 The Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson</p>	<p>5.15 In Tune, Johann Strauss, son (Adventure Die Fledermaus), Beethoven (Concerto, Mozart (Serenade in G, K525, Eine kleine nachtmusik)</p> <p>7.30 BBC Proms 1996, Live from the Albert Hall in London Maria Bayo, soprano, Susan Gritton, soprano, Andreas Scholl, countertenor, Jamie MacDougall, tenor, Peter Koo, bass, Choir of New College Oxford, Choir of Winchester Cathedral, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under René Jacobs, Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BWV 1068), Handel (Gloria, Messiah, excerpts) 8.05 The Christian Church Was Born in Song, Jeremy Sumner and guests discuss why praising God through song has such a widespread appeal 8.25 Proms Part 2: Bach (Magnificat in D, BWV 243) 9.15 Lost in London, The Crystal Palace (5.5)</p> <p>9.30 Tales from the East, Thomas Trotter, organ, Roussel (Joueurs Agés), Yavuzhat, Stephen Coombs and Christopher Scott, pianos: Ravel Overture de la suite Sheherazade</p> <p>10.00 BBC Proms 1996, Live from the Albert Hall in London The Calcutta Drum Orchestra performs a selection of Indian classical drum music</p> <p>12.00 Composer of the Week: Kurt Weill (1) 1.00am Through the Night, with David Maceed, includes 1.00 Each 2.30 Brahms and Enescu 3.40 Weber Brahms Enescu and Franck 4.35 Bar 5.00 Sequence</p>
RADIO 5	
<p>5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing and Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today and 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Speak after the BEEP 14.41 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs, The new artist, Julian Barnes (1) 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley</p> <p>10.00 News, Survivors (FM only), John Mann presents a new series of tales of human endurance: two of workers, Mike Treadwell and Ivan Manning found themselves part of Saddam Hussein's human shield during the Gulf War (1.5)</p> <p>10.00 An Act of Worship (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 The Deep Sea: The National History Programme, with Joanna Pennock</p> <p>12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Cuthbert</p> <p>12.35pm The Deep Sea: One for the Pot, Lionel Kelleway hunts down crab and lobster along the South Wales coast (2.4) 12.55 Weather</p> <p>1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast)</p> <p>2.00 News: The Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles: Dr Thorne, by Anthony Trollope, with John Wood and Leo McKern (2.30 (1))</p> <p>3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Tim Marlow reads a fictional account of the life of artist Henri Matisse</p>	<p>4.45 Short Story: The Swaddling Clothes, by Yukio Mishima, read by Elizabeth Bell</p> <p>5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.00 O'Clock News 6.30 Growing Spaces, Sir Roy Strong visits a secret Victorian garden which has recently been unearthed and restored</p> <p>7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, with Chris Cuthbert</p> <p>8.05 In the Dock Bank, The Jones in which Sue Cameron cross-examines some of Britain's key institutions and professions (2.5)</p> <p>8.50 Home Rules, A series that looks at how different households operate (1.4) (1) 9.15 Letter from America, by Eleanor Cook</p> <p>9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: A Walk on the Water, Paul Doust explores the history of seaside piers (1) 9.59</p> <p>10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig</p> <p>10.45 Book at Bedtime: Changes of Address, by Lee Langley, Abridged by Vonnegut, narrated by Juliet Stevenson (1.4) 9.59</p> <p>11.00 The Sunday Format, See Choice</p> <p>11.25 Fourth Column, with Bill Tidy</p> <p>11.45 The Big Umbrella, Leading thinkers present radio essays on original ideas. This week's reader: No. 1000, 1000</p> <p>12.00 News and 12.27am approx Weather</p> <p>12.30 The Late Book: The Secret History, William Hoare reads Donna Tartt's thriller (5.15) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service</p>

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.6. LW 189. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648. LW 189 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8. MW 1187, 1215. TALK RADIO, UK, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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JP 11/10/50

Sassenachs ahead on low road to laughter

Between them, Ian Paterson and Simon Nye could just say that *Men Behaving Badly* was a pretty much perfect comedy. But they can't. Not without a chuckle. And that's the problem. The comedy empire expands with each commissioning season. One day, perhaps, someone will persuade them to team up and give the world its first ever sitcom set in Berwick-upon-Tweed... or maybe Carlisle. But when it comes to what it is called (*Para Hadrian? Fly? Sherman Behaving Badly?*) two things are certain. Its cast will be largely male and it will be very, very rude.

But until that great day dawns, we continue to assess their work separately. Last night was the final opportunity for a bit of compare and contrast, with the current season of Nye's *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1) coming to an end, while Paterson's *Atletico Parick*

still struggles to find its feet. Well, you could just say that *Men Behaving Badly* was very funny and *Atletico Parick* wasn't. This has the dual advantage of being brief and reasonably honest, but the disadvantage of leaving me with nagging doubts. Doubts that this somehow isn't being fair to Paterson, whose writing is normally pretty reliable, doubts about how his series differs and disappears when compared to the far more promising pilot show last year and doubts about whether I'm taking the whole thing just too seriously. After all, I did laugh when François, the football team's new, gay baller coach, started playing 'I Love Me, He Loves Me Not' with a bag of chips.

By contrast, I have virtually no doubts about *Men Behaving Badly* which signed off with an outstanding exploration of the full tragedy of the male condition, written as only Nye knows how. Like Paterson, Nye exploits stereotypes. Nye does it more subtly, but he gets away with it because Gary and Tony are more firmly based in the real world than a bunch of numpies playing in the Pats Brothers Sweeney Bacon Sunday League.

Last night's episode was almost too painful to watch, as the inevitability of what happened when Debs and Dorothy went away for a sailing weekend came to pass. As Dorothy said, it was a chance for Gary to have some "quality bloke time and more larger space". What it was, of course, was a chance for Gary to have his way with one of the girls next door.

Quite how he managed it with that up line, as your lips are like liver and putting a "v" Dave rather than mellow just is difficult to understand. Suffice it to say she was a woman of independent mind: "I think we should go

round the flat (to the Bee Gees, naturally) which personally I don't think we can ever have enough of."

But it was the morning-after that added the piquancy and pathos that will stay in the memory. "Have you got everything?" asked Gary. Carol thought about it. "Earnings, underwear, slight sense of awkwardness." Yes that was everything. The scene was beautifully played by Martin Clunes and by Liz Carling as Carol, as was the subsequent one where Dorothy came home to discover... a slight variation of the truth. As the woman who knew something had happened but preferred not to know, Caroline Quentin was outstanding.

According to Lachie of *Atletico Parick*, the traditional Glasgow night out involves "getting traditionally pissed, having the traditional kebab followed by the traditional fight outside a nightclub". David Greig gave this cliché some

thing of a reworking in the highly promising screenplay *Nightlife*, the latest from BBC2's *Double Exposure* season for new writers.

Rarely will a new writer get the chance to see his work on screen as good, or as expensive, as this did. There were helicopter shots, tower shots and because this was post-*Shallow* Grave Glasgow, a beautiful flat to boot. In it we found Robin (Katrín Cartledge), a young woman who had locked her front door (several times) and now viewed the world through the huge zoom lens of her tripod-mounted camera.

If Cartledge was the star (and she was very good) her co-star was the park she lived opposite. A thing of municipal beauty during the day, it became a far more menacing place at night, a place for drug dealers and for Jane Horrocks to practice her Scottish

accent. To my untrained ear it was coming along nicely.

Any film that involves zoom lenses and parks owes an obvious debt to Antonioni's *Blow-Up* and this was repaid with a jaunty 1960s pop-song over the opening titles. At the end you half expected a heavily side-burned young man to jump into an open-top sports car, or a mini-skirted girl to throw her crocheted beret in the air, but alas they did not.

Like David Hemmings, Robin wasn't sure what she had seen through her lens, although Greig's tendency to tie up loose ends (rather than loosen them as Antonioni did) meant we were left in little doubt. She had not witnessed a kidnapping at all, but an elaborate, pseudo-masochistic gay fantasy. Not quite the night out that the lads of *Atletico Parick* had in mind.

• Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

to bed now." Ah, the bed thing. Before we get there, Tony's new found passion for carpentry had given Nye the opportunity for some superior slapstick (Tony having inevitably built a wooden barbeque and a well-aimed dig at the current vogue for discovering the inner man. "I've had a really great day... building stuff," he shouted at his own reflection. There was also lots of dancing

CHOICE

6.00am Business Breakfast (BBC2)

7.00 Olympic Breakfast. Overnight action from Atlanta. Featured events include the men's 200m and 400m hurdles and the women's 1500m semi-finals. Plus basketball, volleyball, hockey and football. Includes 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 News (s) (78281)

9.00 News (Celex) (569555)

9.05 Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights including the decathlon, equestrianism, boxing, basketball and the finals of the women's hockey and football tournaments. Includes 11.00 and 12.00 News and weather (s) (3120344)

12.35pm Neighbours (Celex) (s) (6026314)

1.00 News & Weather (Celex) (86208)

1.30 Regional News (4230043)

1.40 Olympic Grandstand. The opening rounds of the 4x100m and 4x400m relays and qualifying for the men's javelin final. The men's 500m walk takes place and there are also the final stages of competition in the archery and canoeing (7347495)

5.35 Neighbours (Celex) (s) (372314)

6.00 News & Weather (Celex) (85)

6.30 Regional news magazines (37)

7.00 Essential Olympics. Desmond Lynam introduces live action from the women's tennis singles final. Plus a review of last night's athletic action (Celex) (10173)

8.30 EastEnders. Nellie has a surprise for Mark and Ruth (Celex) (s) (442)

9.00 News: Regional News: Weather (2032)

9.30 Chicago Hope. Doctors perform two operations simultaneously on a dying patient. Krom discovers that his girlfriend was once a man and there is trouble for Saunders as a fight with a group health plan threatens to destroy his private practice (Celex) (s) (86821)

10.30 Olympic Grandstand. Live action from track and field. The 100m quarter-finals and the 200m semi-finals. Plus the British record holder Roger Black, Duane Ladner and Ivan Thomas run in the individual event and should make the relay team. 10.50 Hockey 11.50 Pole Vault final 11.55 Women's shot final 12.00 Women's 4x100m relay semi-final 12.15am Women's long jump final 12.35 Men's 4x100m semi-finals 1.00 Men's 4x400m semi-finals 2.05 Men's steeplechase final 2.30 Women's 10,000m final. Plus yachting, boxing, volleyball and diving (s) (3679927)

4.25 What a Carry On! A compilation of slapstick and double entendres from the Carry On films. Featuring the combined might of Sidney James, Hattie Jacques, Kenneth Williams, Joan Sims, Frankie Howerd, Charles Hawtrey and Kenneth Connor (s) (45283512)

4.55 FILM: She Done Him Wrong (1933) In one of her most celebrated roles, Mae West plays Lady Lou, a feisty star performer in an 1880s Bowery theatre. She tells for a man who claims to be the captain of a local mission, but is in fact an undercover cop. Also starring Cary Grant. Directed by Lowell Sherman (b/w) (43144357) Ends 6am

Video Plus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to the video programme listings are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a Video Plus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Video Plus+ (TM), PlusCode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision spreadsheet, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Unlabeled (1358) 8.00 Press Your Luck (433288) 9.00 Low Connection (115488) 9.45 Corn Whisky (254538)

10.40 Jeopardy! (489656) 11.10 Soli Josay Karaoke (888111) 12.00 Code 3 (13014) 12.30am Woman (888111)

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GOLF 32

Montgomerie up
for count in
Swedish farce

SPORT

CRICKET 34

Wells makes third
double-century
to lift leaders

FRIDAY AUGUST 2 1996

British look for golden finale

Relay squad
plan surprise
for Americans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE Great Britain athletics team, facing its least successful Olympic Games for 20 years, will be looking to Roger Black to lead a salvage operation when the 4x400 metres relay is held over the next two days. The event holds Britain's last realistic hope, albeit a faint one, of a victory, but the team is, without doubt, the strongest the nation has fielded.

What greater irony could there be than for the United States, which has been barely able to see beyond itself at these Olympics, to be beaten in the last of the track events? On home ground, in front of record crowds, it has dominated the top step of the podium and the presumption here is that Michael Johnson will anchor the four-lap team to the perfect climax for the American public tomorrow.

When Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record-holder, said in June that victory was "a formality, we should win by 30 or 40 metres," he was perhaps tempting fate. Since then, Reynolds has been injured, failing to reach the final of the individual event, and Johnson apart, the performances of Britain's 400 metres runners compare favourably with those in the United States squad.

Black, in winning the silver medal, finished comfortably clear of Alvin Harrison, the second athlete from the home nation, and Iwan Thomas was just behind him in fifth place, and although Duane Ladejo, the European champion, is out of form, Britain has Mark Richardson, fifth in the world championships last year, and Jamie Baulch, aged only 23 but already the fifth-fastest Briton ever, to come in for the final. Had it not been for the towering presence of Johnson, there would be no shadow over optimism that Britain might avoid only its sixth Olympics, out of 23, without an athletics gold medal.

Although Britain will not name its quartet for each round until the deadline, one hour in advance, Black's comment yesterday "that there is no point in going out on to the track unless you are going out to win," suggests that the team will be structured, and briefed tactically, to gamble on victory rather than play safe for silver medals. If the Americans remain unflustered, they should remember two precedents in which victory was expected but Britain, as the squad

Redmond and John Regis had run legs two and three. Kriss Akabusi was three metres down at the final changeover. Sparing the British men's team from returning home without gold, Akabusi came past Antonio Pettigrew, who had beaten Black to the individual title a few days earlier, two strides from line.

Be in no doubt that relays are highly-regarded integral part of the sport. Black described the victory as "more fulfilling for me than anything I have achieved on my own as an athlete."

At the British Olympic trials in June, Black set a British record on a landmark occasion for British 400 metres running. "I have looked forward to this day for a long time, four guys under 45 seconds," he said. "We are going to have a great relay team and that is important."

He probably did not imagine then just how important it would become. Linford Christie's exit in the second round of the 200 metres on Wednesday marked the end of his championship career in individual events. All that is left for him now is the 4x100 metres relay. Given the disappointing Olympics that Christie, Colin Jackson and Tony Jarrett have had and that Ian Mackie, who reached the 100 metres semi-finals, has returned home injured, a place on the podium appears little short of an impossibility.

T-shirts said after the second of them, "kicked their butts". The first was in 1936, at the Berlin Olympics, when Fredie Brown left the United States trailing by two seconds in the silver medal position, despite the fact that, based on personal best times, the Americans should have won by 20 metres. At the 1991 world championships in Tokyo, the Americans pressed self-destruct by not selecting Johnson, the world No 1 for two years, because he did not contest the 400 metres in the trials. Black, traditional the anchorman, surprised everybody outside the camp by coming out to run the lead leg. The tactic was devised to unsettle the Americans, who like to lead from start. Black opened a gap, but, after Derek



Jamal Hassan, of Qatar, makes an unwanted splash in his unavailing attempt to qualify for the final of the 3,000 metres steeplechase

Lewis's right to run divides nation

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE controversy over whether Carl Lewis should run the last leg of the sprint relay in order to end his Olympic career with a record ten gold medals has become a matter of national debate in the United States.

For many Americans, Lewis personifies track and field athletics. Ever since he emulated Jesse Owens by taking four titles at the 1984 Olympic Games, Lewis has symbolised the United States' supremacy in the premier Olympic sport. Because of the popularity of these Games, which are attracting record-breaking television audiences, many athletics enthusiasts want to use the opportunity of Lewis's farewell to promote their sport as much as they can.

However, Lewis finished eighth in the 100 metres final of the US trials and therefore

has no direct right to be picked for the 4x100m relay. Three weeks ago, he did not even turn up for a relay training camp in North Carolina.

All eight runners from the final at the trials were invited to the camp and Erv Hunt, the US coach, is understandably reluctant to include Lewis, even if the athlete has run the final leg of the Olympic winning relay in the past three Games.

"For me to put a person on the team that does not want to come to practise when these other athletes are out there busting their backsides, I don't think is fair," Hunt said.

Jon Drummond, a member of the relay team, said of Lewis: "He won the long jump. That's not the 100 metres. He got beaten but he was in the trials."

"What is it that gives Carl the right to a tenth gold medal and deny somebody else the

chance of fulfilling their dreams?"

Dennis Mitchell, 30, who was a member of the successful quartet in 1992 and is another contender for the squad this year after beating Lewis at the US trials, said: "Carl has had his moment. Let me have mine."

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Mike Marsh, another relay team member who belongs to Lewis's Santa Monica Track Club, is denying that he will step aside, but he said: "It's a very difficult question for me to answer. It puts me in a tremendously difficult spot."

The issue has split the United States team. Michael Johnson, who risks being up-

staged if Lewis were to run in the relay, surprisingly said: "I always believe you put your best four out there. Seeing we dropped the baton last year [at the world championships, without Lewis] "if I was the coach, I would put Carl on the relay."

The pressure on Hunt is likely to mount before the semi-finals today, when the coach could change his lineup. Perhaps the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) will use its influence to get Lewis into the team. Perhaps Nike will offer a withdrawal fee to allow the sponsors' favourite athlete to run and make history by becoming the first competitor in any sport to win ten Olympic golds.

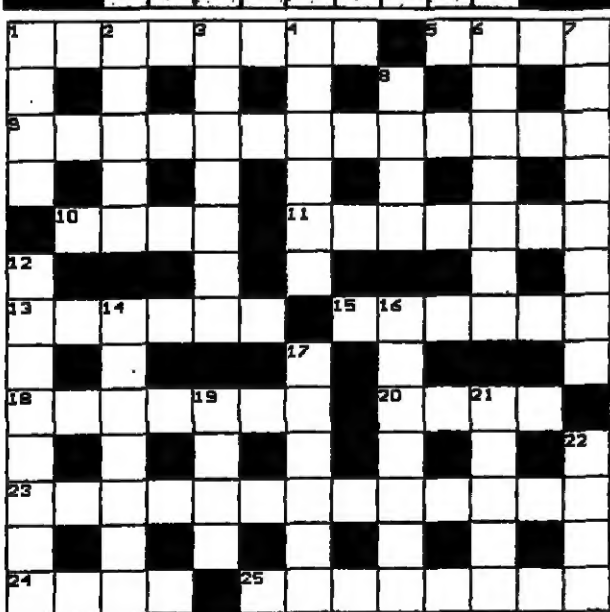
Perhaps there may even be a political intervention. Ron Wilson, the US representative, has written to President Clinton to ask him to start lobby-

ing for Lewis. It is, as they say here, "a tough call" for the Americans.

Three other competitors apart from Lewis, have won nine gold medals in 100 years of the Games. They are Paavo Nurmi, a long-distance runner from Finland, Larissa Latynina, a Russian gymnast, and Mark Spitz, an American swimmer.

Lewis himself, started the controversy by suggesting that the public should contact the US Olympic Committee and campaign noisily in the stadium on his behalf. But yesterday he said: "I've accepted all along that the team has been selected. Now is the time to support the team."

However he added that he would run, if offered the chance by Hunt, and there remains an outside chance of a place if other members of the squad are injured. "I would take that," Lewis said.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 850

ACROSS

- 1 Travel document (8)
- 5 Rain gently; depth of spade (4)
- 9 Insult, etc. requiring satisfaction (5,2,6)
- 10 Terrifying monster (4)
- 11 Hand-thrown explosive (7)
- 13 Rock plant (6)
- 15 Writing desk (6)
- 18 Footless heraldic bird (7)
- 20 Lose intensity (4)
- 23 Romeo and Juliet based musical (4,4,5)
- 24 New Haven university (4)
- 25 Largest Solar System moon (8)

DOWN

- 1 Narrowly beats; time signal (4)
- 2 Arm support; throw (5)
- 3 Mould, example (7)
- 4 Place of safety (6)
- 6 Irreligious (7)
- 7 Shortened (clothes); arrived (6,2)
- 8 Folk wisdom (4)
- 12 One is safe out of it (5,3)
- 14 Casual reading (7)
- 16 Non-pedantic (7)
- 17 Sports grounds (6)
- 19 Whip (4)
- 21 Monotone; type of bee (5)
- 22 Kind, sort (4)

The solution to 849 will be published Wednesday, August 7

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Beadsworth sails close to wind
but leaves his best until last

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT, IN SAVANNAH

ANDY BEADSWORTH is a cool customer and it is just as well. He came within one race of being knocked out of the Soling match-racing in his quarter-final with Stig Westergaard, of Denmark, but converted it into a 3-2 win and then returned to the dock claiming the experience had not shaken him one bit.

It may not have affected Beadsworth but it was agonising for those of his supporters who were watching including Jim Saltonstall, the Great Britain coach, who was on the edge of his spectator boat. "It was nail-biting stuff," he said.

Beadsworth and his crew of Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, found themselves in the quarter-finals on Wednesday because they lost their bye into the semi-finals after slipping to third overall on the last day of the fleet racing. Although Beadsworth is probably the

most talented match-racer still in the competition, Westergaard is the next best.

Despite sailing in the Spanish team's second-string boat after his own yacht was deemed illegal by measurers at the beginning of the regatta, Westergaard - this year's match-racing champion in Solings - had shown good speed and a fighting spirit to make it into the top six.

After two races and two victories, he seemed to have it all wrapped up. On each occasion the Britons were ahead, but then lost on the downwind legs as the Danes, with a slacker rig setting, produced more speed. But Beadsworth noticed the difference and altered his settings accordingly. In race three he led from start to finish.

The fourth race was decided in the pre-start when Westergaard earned a penalty

for not responding quickly enough to a luff with just one minute to go. Approaching the windward mark for the second time in the lead, he tried to force Beadsworth into a penalty of his own, but ended up stopping his boat dead in the water, allowing the Britons to sail past.

So it came down to the last race. Westergaard got away again up the beat but Beadsworth caught up on the run. About three-quarters of the way down it, Westergaard incurred another penalty for not sailing a proper course after his spinnaker touched Beadsworth's shroud. The Dane then fluffed his mark-rounding allowing Beadsworth an overlap, and they were off to the finish.

"That fifth one was a big match," Beadsworth said. "but we were sailing well. I was pleased. We had had a problem downwind and maybe didn't have the rig forward enough." Yesterday, Beadsworth was sailing in the semi-finals against the German double Olympic gold medal-winner Jochen Schümann. "He's got good speed and we are going to need to get up for it," Beadsworth said, "but we're on a roll now with all our pre-race nerves out of the way." Victory will assure him of a silver medal at worst. Defeat will mean a sail-off for bronze.

The other semi-final was being contested by the Russian crew led by Georgi Shayduko and the American boat helmed by Jeff Madrigali. Shayduko had earlier disposed of the Canadians, Bill and Joanne Abbott and Brad Boston, 3-0.

Meanwhile, Britain's John

Merricks and Ian Walker were facing their eleventh and last race in the 470s, knowing that they could afford to make no mistakes to hold on to the silver-medal position. They have had a difficult and inconsistent regatta by their own standards and have done well to claw their way into contention after some uneven results.

The gold is already secure in the hands of the Ukrainian pairing of Yevhen Braslavets and Ihor Marvinyenko but, luckily for Merricks and Walker, many of the other leading crews have had their off-days, too.

However three crews - the Russians, Portuguese and Americans - were capable of stealing silver from them and six could take the bronze. To get either, Merricks and Walker could not afford a disaster which could plunge them out of medal contention.



Beadsworth, left, Parkin and Stead are in the medal hunt



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